

Suzanne Moore
Ikea's flopcock feminism

Page 19

Save our kids:
Censorship, panic
and the Internet

Section Two, cover story

THE INDEPENDENT

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Political assassins and bombers would have hit London today

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The IRA were within hours of carrying out a devastating bombing campaign and political assassinations, police revealed yesterday after staging a series of raids in which one man was killed and weapons and explosives were seized.

The attacks involving two huge lorry-bombs and booby-trap car mines were foiled shortly before the operation was due to go live, police believe.

Ten tonnes of explosive was seized during a series of dawn raids in which one terrorist suspect was shot dead and five other men were arrested.

Anti-terrorist officers believe the IRA planned to launch a series of attacks, almost certainly in London, that included two massive lorry-bombs similar to the Manchester and Docklands devices and smaller explosives aimed at politicians or public figures. Scotland Yard said they believed the bombings were probably planned for either yesterday or today. The finds appear to have dashed any hopes that the paramilitaries might be preparing to call a new ceasefire.

John Major, while declaring himself "absolutely delighted" by yesterday's operations, said it once again put a question mark over the paramilitaries' commitment to the peace process. "It remains impossible to reconcile Sinn Féin's rhetoric for peace with the IRA's preparations for murder," he said.

Sources warned yesterday that the IRA could be expected to carry out a quick counter-attack to prove they still had the power to hit targets on the British mainland.

Yesterday's breakthrough came in a series of dawn raids on three properties in London and one in Sussex. Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch retrieved 10 tons of home-made explosive, some of which was boxed and ready for priming. 2lbs of Semtex, two booby-trap bombs for fitting under cars, 13 timer-power units, three Kalashnikov rifles, two handguns and ammunition. Two lorries, which are believed to have come from Northern Ireland, and a number of cars were also recovered.



The dead suspect's blood stains. Photo: Adrian Dennis

Most of the haul was from an industrial warehouse in Hornsey Vale, north London.

During a raid on a three-storey house in Hammersmith, west London, police shot a suspect who died later in hospital.

Local residents later described how armed police had approached the house shortly before dawn. Officers wearing flak-jackets and carrying ladders attempted to gain access to the building but became involved in a gun battle with two men inside the house. It is understood the property is a popular boarding house for Irish labourers working in London.

Mother-of-two Gulapshan Ali, 32, said she was woken by screams and shouting. "It was 4.30am and there was an awful banging and screaming. I heard the sound of breaking glass and then I heard what I knew were gunshots."

"My husband looked out of the window and saw about a dozen special policemen wearing bullet-proof jackets."

"They were in position crouching behind trees and cars surrounding the house as others seemed to be trying to break into the basement and used ladders to get in. One was shouting 'throw down your weapon we are the police'."

10 armed policemen at this time. Then there was shooting which lasted for about 10 seconds. Then we heard one policeman say 'I don't think he has got a chance', she added.

Roads around the house were yesterday sealed off as forensic science experts began searches inside.

A trail of blood could be seen leading from the end terrace house across the tiled hallway of the lobby area and down the four steps. A huge smear of blood stretched down the path about three yards as if someone had been dragged or fallen.

It is understood that the dead suspect may have been a "sleeper", a man of Irish extraction who had lived in Britain for several years, blending into the community over a long period to avoid arousing suspicion.

The Police Complaints Authority will supervise an investigation into his death.

Other men were arrested by armed officers in house in Fulham, south-west London. One man, who was later identified as an engineer working at Gatwick, was detained in Crawley, Sussex.

The five suspects arrested are understood to have lived in Britain for a number of years, but come from Ireland.

David Veness, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police said yesterday that the home-made explosives were virtually "ready for use" and would probably have been used as large vehicle-bombs, such as the one which injured 200 people in Manchester in June and the one which killed two people in London's Docklands in February.

Up to 10 police forces are thought to have been involved in tracking suspects during a surveillance operation lasting about three weeks. A house and an industrial unit in Sheffield were also searched yesterday but nothing was found.

Geny Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, said yesterday that he regretted somebody had been killed in the police raids and added that he presumed the IRA had been involved. He added: "It should be an incentive to political leaders, particularly the Governments to build a real peace process."



Timely work: A horological engineer, Michael Tomlinson, repairing the bomb-damaged clock at Manchester Cathedral

Photograph: Chris Gleave

Huge blow to republican morale

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland correspondent

The swoops in England have dealt a shattering double blow to the republican movement, undermining the IRA's capacity to inflict destruction in England while ruining Sinn Féin's chances of entry into talks.

The IRA will try to stage other attacks to make the point that it can still cause damage in Britain. But most immediately it must face the fact that the security services finally look to have the upper hand, and that the IRA's prized "England department" seems chronically

insecure. The blow to the IRA is one of the worst setbacks ever suffered in Britain by the terrorists. The setback is all the more severe because Britain is the central focus of IRA activity. Belfast may have its beatings and occasional shootings, but not a single IRA bomb has gone off there since the ceasefire ended in February.

The IRA had put its faith in the proposition that it could refrain from bombing in Northern Ireland and exert enough pressure on the Government through bombings in England alone. In reaching that conclusion it was clearly influenced by

the fact that since 1988, when it launched its major bombing campaign in England, it almost always managed to stay ahead of the security people.

It is now coming to terms with the fact that Britain has become something of a disaster zone for its members, and that "successes" such as the explosions which devastated Docklands, in London, and Manchester are now interspersed with mishaps and accidents, providing evidence that the organisation has been penetrated.

Whether or not the bomb or bombs had gone off, the idea of any government bringing Sinn

Fein to the conference table at this moment is risible. The bombing has in effect ensured that republicans cannot expect entry into talks for many months, thus practically guaranteeing that Sinn Féin will not be at the table in advance of the next British general election.

Yesterday was a good day for

the security services and a bad day for the IRA and Sinn Féin. But it was also a bad day for any hopes of a reconstructed peace process, for it showed that the republicans have reverted to militarism and that for the moment regards the IRA as their cutting edge, no matter the damage to their political wing.

Rail signaller worked 43 days non-stop

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Railtrack last night admitted that it was in breach of guidelines drawn up after the Clapham rail disaster by allowing a signaller, who inadvertently risked the lives of fellow rail staff on the track, to work 43 days without a day off.

The company said that it was to examine "the issues

raised by this case" after being alerted by *The Independent*. Earlier this summer, the signaller, David Farrar, worked 27 and 43 days either side of just one break of a week's leave. The guidelines drawn up by the Hidden Inquiry require signaller staff to work a maximum of 13 shifts - which can be up to 12 hours - in succession.

The situation occurred just after the privatisation of Railtrack

in May, which workers say has increased pressure on them to work beyond their permitted hours.

Lawrie Harris, press officer for the rail union, RMT, said: "This is by no means an isolated case. In Scotland, they are even putting pressure on people not to adhere to the minimum 12-hour break between shifts."

Mr Farrar worked in a num-

ber of boxes around the North East Zone because he is a relief signaller, a job that requires particular attention since, according to one rail worker, "all boxes have their idiosyncrasies". His long turn of duty only came to light because he made a mistake. He allowed a group of maintenance staff to go on the line when they were only protected by an emergency signal, whereas regulations spec-

ify that they should be protected by a normal signal.

Mr Farrar's mistake led to an automatic disciplinary hearing but he was cleared by the manager who was responsible for the case because of the lengthy tour of duty.

One local rail union representative told *The Independent*, "This seems to imply that if we work more than 13 days, any accident we cause is not our fault."

That's no way to run a railway."

The case highlights increased pressure on signaller staff to work beyond the hours specified by the Hidden Inquiry and reveals confusion over the status of the guidelines. While one Railtrack spokesman appeared to say that they were only "guidelines" and not mandatory, another said that they were strictly enforced and any breach would be monitored.

Revealed: the official Lib-Lab pact

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

A formal Lib-Lab pact has been struck between Jane Ashdown and Cherie Booth, effectively stopping any election campaign television or radio interviews on the "wives' lives".

Because of election rules on broadcasting balance, the deal means that Norma Major cannot be interviewed as the wife of the Conservative leader.

One source told *The Independent* yesterday that it was a common technique among broadcasters to approach one party, saying the other two parties had agreed to a package, even if they had not.

"Because of the agreement reached by the two women they will all three now know that is not true," he said. "So there will be no interviews in the election."

The deal was struck some months ago after Paddy Ash-



Election deal: Jane Ashdown



(left) and Cherie Booth

down challenged John Major about a Tory attack on Ms Booth last June.

The Liberal Democrat leader asked the Prime Minister in the Commons whether he approved the "unpleasant campaign" being run by Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, "to attack the Labour

party through the Labour leader's wife".

He demanded: "Do you want an election campaign run around personality attacks, which extends even to our families? Do you approve of that?" Mr Major said: "There is no such campaign and nor will there be any such campaign."

CONTENTS

Section 1	BUSINESS & CITY	20-24
COMMENT		17-20
FOREIGN NEWS		11-15
GAZETTE		16
HOME NEWS		2-10
LEADING ARTICLES		17
LETTERS		23
SHARES		25-28
SPORT		24
UNIT TRUSTS		24
Section 2	ARCHITECTURE	16,17
ARTS		11
FASHION		14,15
HEALTH		6-10
LIVINGS		24,25
LIVING		4,5
MEDIA		18-21
RADIO		27
TELEVISION		28
WEATHER		25



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news

Secret of new success against IRA

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Raid by armed anti-terrorist officers early yesterday promise to be an important breakthrough in the fight against the IRA.

The operations, which resulted in the death of one suspect, the capture of five, and the seizure of up to 10 tonnes of explosives, bomb-making equipment, bobby-trap car devices, guns and ammunition, is the second big seizure in just over two months.

In July officers recovered components for up to 36 bombs which, it is thought, were to have been used to target power stations in London and the south-east. Eight men were later remanded in custody charged with conspiring to cause explosions.

So are the authorities getting lucky or more skilled at tracking down terrorists? One of the most significant developments this year was the appointment of Commander John Grieve, head of Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch. He had just taken up his new post at the beginning of February when a lorry bomb destroyed the ceasefire when it devastated a large area of the Docklands and killed two people.

Commander Grieve, a philosophy and psychology graduate, has a reputation as a shrewd but unconventional policeman. In his previous job as the Metropolitan Police's director of intelligence, he headed a team of specialists in surveillance and data analysis in targeting drug-traffickers, international criminals and London gangs.

He has used his expertise in intelligence-gathering to bring a new, and many believe more thoughtful and astute, approach to anti-terrorism. Among his new developments is emphasis on using closed-circuit television to ensure terrorists and numerous appeals to the public and the criminal underworld for help. This has been backed with promises of up to a £1m in reward money.

The potential benefit of "inside information" was highlighted by reports last night that an informer was suspected of helping police thwart the IRA in yesterday's raids. Commander Grieve's cerebral approach has also met increasing approval and appreciation by MI5, which has overall responsibility in anti-terrorist intelligence-gathering and analysis.

Insiders say the net result is greater "harmony" between the police and the security service. Gone are the bad old days of turf wars and there now appears to be much closer co-operation and greater understanding.

MI5 expertise at intelligence-gathering has also been praised as a vital factor in the operations. Surveillance and undercover techniques used by the security service have been evolving over the years and are "paying dividends", said a source. Scotland Yard sources yesterday pointed towards the success of public appeals and improvements in intelligence-gathering techniques for the recent successes.

But not all the news is good. There are still a number of unsolved terror attacks from this year. Most significantly, the Docklands and Manchester bombers are still at large and while yesterday's arrests and seizures are seen as an important break-through, they are only considered a dent against the IRA war machine.



Metal mania: Hell's Angels and the Iron Maiden band rode through London yesterday and stopped at the BBC to play some of the group's greatest hits outside Broadcasting House to try to persuade Radio 1 to feature more heavy metal music. Photograph: Brian Harris

Hurd leads backlash in battle over Chancellor

Douglas Hurd will issue a rallying call to One Nation Tories tomorrow to speak up for their brand of Conservatism against domination by Euro-sceptics in spite of the right-wing backlash over Kenneth Clarke's stand on the single European currency.

The former Foreign Secretary will use a conference of the Mainstream group of Tory MPs, led by David Hunt, a former Cabinet colleague, as a pre-emptive strike against the right wing before the Tory Party conference.

Coming after the former Foreign Secretary signed the grandees' letter to *The Independent*, it will confirm the determination of middle-ground Tories to fight the right wing. A string of ministers will share the Mainstream platform, including Nicholas Soames, defence minister, Robin Squire, Ian Taylor, and ex-minister Tim Yeo.

Rallying call to One Nation Tories to speak up against Euro-sceptics

The readiness of the former wets to hit back at the Tory right – with Danny Finkelstein, head of the Conservative Party research department present – will highlight the threat of civil war breaking out in the party. But it is a mark of their renewed anxiety to fight back against the right wing dominating the agenda for the general election.

John Redwood will lead the calls at the conference for a more Euro-sceptic approach to reunite the party for the general election. He accused the Chancellor of letting down Britain at Dublin at the weekend by failing to oppose efforts by European partners to accelerate the move towards a new exchange rate mechanism.

Mr Redwood told *The Independent*: "We expected the

Chancellor at Dublin to put the Government's view in order to influence the debate. It is a great pity that the Chancellor didn't warn of the dangers and the grave damage the ERM has done and could do in future.

"He should have reminded them it is British Government policy not to re-enter the ERM, and rightly so."

Mr Hurd will warn the party that it will risk losing the general election if it surrenders the centre ground to Labour under Tony Blair. He will tell the all-day conference tomorrow that the party has encountered turbulence, but One Nation Tories should be prepared to speak out to defend their brand of Conservatism.

However, Mr Redwood, the champion of the right wing, will



Hurd: Pre-emptive strike against right-wing

point out in a fringe speech to the Conservative 2000 group at the annual party conference that the conference motions show there is massive support for Euro-sceptic policies.

He will tell the Tory fringe that a Euro-sceptic approach is adopted in 198 motions for the Europe debate, a further 38 mo-

tions for the agriculture debate, four in the defence debate, and seven in the debate on trade and industry. He will argue that the party is united behind a Euro-sceptic approach.

Mr Redwood's supporters said last night that Mr Major would like to adopt a Euro-sceptic tone for the general election. "He cannot because he is terrified of Kenneth Clarke," said one right-wing source.

Bill Cash, a leading backbench Euro-sceptic called on Mr Clarke to consider his position.

But Mr Clarke's supporters said last night he was not isolated. He had the support of Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, in the Cabinet, and had made it clear to close friends that he believed he was entitled to defy the Euro-sceptics because he had charge of the economy.

Leading article, page 17

significant shorts

Nurses set for pay clash

Nurses yesterday set themselves on collision course with the government and health service managers by calling for the scrapping of local pay awards and a substantial national rise. They are understood to want at least 14 per cent next year to stem staff shortages and flagging morale. This year the Pay Review Body, which advises the Government on pay awards for nurses, midwives and health visitors, recommended a 2 per cent national rise with NHS Trusts left free to decide how much more to give locally.

Woman wins £3,000 over harassment

An industrial tribunal yesterday awarded a woman £3,000 for sex discrimination after her manager mounted a campaign to ridicule and abusing her. Diana Britton, deputy chairwoman at the Equal Opportunities Commission, said the ruling in Glasgow in favour of Jane Dobbin has clarified the law by finding that although her treatment was not of a sexual nature, harassment of women which is prolonged can be unlawful. *Patricia Wynne Davies*

Wandering boy ponders future

Peter Kerry, the schoolboy with a wanderlust, was yesterday sent home from school to think about his future. His parents said they would do everything in their "limited powers" to stop him running away again. Peter, who returned from Germany more than a week after vanishing from his home in Harrow, north-west London, was condemned by his headmaster for acting "selfishly". Peter, 15, hit the headlines in February when he flew 7,000 miles to Malaysia using his father's passport and credit card, sparking a world-wide search which lasted six days.

Japanese company 'not racist'

A boss at a City subsidiary of a Japanese firm yesterday denied the company had been racist in failing to promote British workers. Noriaki Nakajima, deputy manager of the British arm of Quick Corporation – a financial information company – told an industrial tribunal in Stratford, east London, that the British staff lacked suitable "ability and character" to become managers.

Cliff Wakeman, 42, of Whitstable, Kent, Ashok Solanki, 44, from Edgeware, north London, and Stewart Mitchell, 45, from Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, are claiming racial discrimination and unfair dismissal against Quick. The hearing continues today.

Gummer in hot water

Conservationists raised a tentative cheer yesterday as the board of the Lake District National Park voted by 23 to one to take the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, to the High Court in its fight to get power boats off Lake Windermere. Last month Mr Gummer overruled an independent inspector and refused to confirm a bylaw for a 10mph speed limit on the lake. *Stephen Goodwin*

ITV's £800m war chest

ITV is spending £800m on its Saturday schedule. Out go shows such as *Jack Dee*, and in come dramas from a £230m series, American stories, movie premieres and occasional sport.

Hotel plan for Trafalgar Square

Plans to build a hotel on the corner of London's Trafalgar Square were unveiled yesterday. Burford Holdings said a £7m deal with Prudential for a site in St Martin's Place on the corner of the famous square would be the first to give waking travellers a room with a view of Nelson's Column.

Endeavour is answer to Morse code

The mystery about the Christian name of Inspector Morse ended yesterday when the character's creator, Colin Dexter, revealed all: Endeavour. In London to launch the last Morse book, *Death Is Now My Neighbour*, he said the name was chosen to fit Morse's background: his father was a fan of Captain Cook and his mother a Quaker. Mr Dexter decided on it seven years ago after Morse's initial of 'E' was shown in the popular *Inspector Morse* television series on a hospital chart hanging on the bed in which the inspector was lying. The actor John Thaw, who plays Morse in the series, had known of the name for a year. *Marianne Macdonald*

Stalker's 'terrifying' campaign

A dental nurse yesterday told of a stalker's "terrifying" campaign which left her in fear of her life. Perry Southall, 20, told Southwark Crown Court that Clarence Morris, of Poplar, east London, sent her bottles of champagne, but also twice threatened her with an axe-like weapon in a car park. He denies causing actual bodily harm and a further count of common assault. The trial continues.

Jehovah's Witness girl doomed by transfusion refusal

A Jehovah's Witness died after an in-line skating accident because her family refused to let her have a blood transfusion, an inquest heard yesterday.

A doctor said he pleaded with the family to allow her a transfusion which would have given her a 90-per-cent chance of survival. Emelie Grootjes, 19, broke both legs after she lost control of her skates going down a hill on 31 July. A Dutch student, she had been on holiday at Lockley Park caravan park, Hamworthy, Dorset, with her mother, father, brother and sister, all Jehovah's Witnesses.

The inquest at Bournemouth was told she was taken to Poole General Hospital, where she

died from fat-embolism syndrome five days later. East Dorset coroner Nigel Neville-Jones heard that fat and marrow from her bones had entered her blood system before jamming up around her lungs.

Charles Blakeaway, a consultant surgeon, described an operation designed to bind her legs and stop more fat getting into the bloodstream. "We would normally give a transfusion straight away. The transfusion was refused from the outset because she was a Jehovah's Witness. If consent is declined then we are stuck."

The next day he noticed problems with Emelie and her lungs began to deteriorate. She died later in intensive care. "The refusal of the blood transfusion contributed to her death in my opinion."

Barry Newman, head of the intensive-care unit, said: "Somebody as young and fit as her, if she had received all the therapies we could give, then I would have given her chances as 90 per cent. When I first met her I was made aware that she

was a Jehovah's Witness. Her parents had signed a form saying she would not take blood or blood products."

Dr Newman said he regretted not telling her the first time he met her of the "brutal facts" that her life could depend on the blood and plasma. Her father, Cornelius, said: "We accept other treatment but not blood or blood products. I think the situation with blood is not so black or white as it looks. I think the doctors did all they could and I am very happy with all that they did."

Mr Neville-Jones said a post-mortem examination gave the cause of death as fat-embolism syndrome. He referred to a High Court Judge's ruling, saying: "The right of the individual is paramount. She was entitled in her rights to refuse the transfusions which were offered to her." He recorded a verdict that she died as the result of an accident "the consequences of which were contributed by the refusal of blood transfusions on religious grounds".

'Times' papers over cracks of lost price deal

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

The Times newspapers yesterday cancelled a cut-price subscription offer they had been advertising the previous day, provoking speculation that executives feared it could lose substantial sums.

The offer, which has been made in advertisements in both *The Times* and its Sunday sister, claimed the papers would "match any other subscription offer you receive from any other national newspaper".

The initiative appeared to be a clear attempt to retain readers following an offer by *Telegraph* newspapers. In direct mailshots they have been offering all seven *Telegraph* papers from Monday to Sunday for £1. The *Telegraph* mailshot, which demands readers pre-pay by cheque or credit card 12, 24, 36 or 52 weeks in advance, claimed customers could save £2.40 a week.

But when *Telegraph* readers responded yesterday to the *Times* newspapers' advert promising to match other subscription offers they were told

it had been cancelled. "I'm afraid it is closed," a News International operator said. "We were told this morning it had finished and there was nothing we could do about it."

Yesterday Jane Reed, director of corporate affairs at News International, acknowledged the offer had been suddenly closed, saying: "There is no reason, when one makes a decision, that it shouldn't be made quickly. The subscription offer was designed to cover the summer of sport, and now we're going into an extremely strong autumn period and we still feel we are giving the best value ever on 10p and 40p cover prices. We felt it was the best thing to do."

The war for subscriptions is the latest round in the battle for circulation which is dominating the gently declining British newspaper market. *The Times* is presently heavily promoting its Monday paper, at 10p.

It was also News International which led the recent all-out newspaper price war which rocked the British market and resulted in prices being slashed across the board.

Media, Section 2

Four die as car and coach collide

REBECCA FOWLER

Four men were killed and a fifth was seriously injured when their car collided with a coach carrying 22 pensioners in the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire yesterday.

The single-decker coach and the red Renault hatchback car crashed on a sharp bend, on the A424 road at the junction with Donnington Trout Farm, near

Moreton-in-Marsh at 3.30pm. The pensioners, including some in wheelchairs, were described as "badly shaken". They are understood to have been visiting the Cotswolds on a trip from Telford in Shropshire.

They were initially taken to the local village hall where several were treated for minor injuries and shock. A number were then taken to Cheltenham General Hospital by ambulance although none were

believed to be seriously hurt.

An air ambulance took the fifth car passenger to the hospital, where his condition was described as serious. He was cut from the wreckage of the Renault by firefighters, along with the four deceased. All the men in the car are believed to be from the Birmingham area.

The accident was witnessed by Phil Janka, 38, a brewery worker who lives near by. He said: "The car was going to-

wards Stow-on-the-Wold from Evesham when it met up with the coach going the other way and hit it head on."

"The impact pushed the car back quite a distance and it has been squashed to about half its size."

He added: "This is a nasty bend and there have been a lot of accidents on it before, but never anything this serious."

The cause of the accident was being investigated by police.

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كلوا من الاصل

Unrepentant Norris romps and tells

The ex-minister delivers his embarrassing goods on the eve of the Tory conference.
By John Rentoul

For months senior Tories have been shifting awkwardly at the thought of the "romp 'n' tell" memoirs of Steven Norris hitting the bookshelves next week, days before their party conference.

It seems that, as so often in his life, the former transport minister had the best of intentions. The first draft of his book was so tame the publishers, who paid more than £150,000, asked him to "spice it up".

Now the publishers – and the *Daily Mail*, which began serialisation yesterday – have got what they want.

But no one else is happy. More than one mistress feels bitter and betrayed by his decision to go into print about his relationships. Today the *Mail* launches its main salvo: "The truth about me and my five mistresses".

His party is also angry about his disloyalty. A minister in the Government until only two months ago, Mr Norris launched a vitriolic attack on Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, in yesterday's instalment.

He accused Mr Heseltine of failing to reward his supporters, and said: "The real reason Emma Nicholson defected was that, after years of dogged devotion, Heseltine could hardly remember her name."

But the real story that is revealed is one of a boisterous Thatcherite brought down to earth by the reality of less exciting times. Mr Norris was the embodiment of the Thatcher boom years. A Labour student who was a Tory convert, he became a millionaire through his ownership of a VW-Audi dealership and described himself, ironically, as a "second-hand car dealer".

He was married to the daughter of a rear-admiral and sent his son to Eton. He was irreverent, larger than life and a populist right-winger.

When he was translated from Oxford to Epping Forest after a year out of the Commons, he even became the emblematic Essex Man.

But he was never really like that. He was a social liberal who supported reducing the age of consent for homosexuals to 16. And he was a Thatcherite who lost faith in Baroness Thatcher over the poll tax.



The power to charm: Sheila Gunn, top, Vicky Norris, the wife, and Lynn Taylor have all fallen for Steven Norris, left, now telling much, if not all, in a new book

The Sayings of Steven Norris

"The reputation I have as a philanderer is quite erroneous. I am not angry about it but it's a million miles from the reality." This week.

On the morning of 1995 Tory leadership election he predicted that John Major would have to resign if 100 MPs failed to vote for him. 111 failed to do so, but Mr Major stayed.

Asked who he voted for in 1995 Tory leadership

election: "John Major: I owed him and he's the least worst option."

On the joys of the car: "You have your own company, your own temperature control, your own music – and don't have to put up with dreadful human beings sitting alongside you." 1995

"For the sake of the environment, we must try to tone down this love affair with the car." 1994

In yesterday's instalment, he claimed to have admired her and her "brilliant" Euro-sceptical Bruges speech, but said she lost touch with the Tory party and the people through no fault of her own.

This was not what he said at the time, which was that "the only way to be sure was to nail her in a coffin with a stake through her heart".

And then there was the sex. The evasions of politics seem to have been replicated in his private life.

Asked by Lady Thatcher's campaign manager, Peter Morrison, "I trust we can count on you?" Mr Norris says he replied: "Absolutely no problem." He describes this as a "suitably Delphic response", which added to the Thatcher team's miscalculation.

He was still at it earlier this summer, when two rail enthusiasts at a meeting gave him a video of their

plans to improve public transport in their area. He listened attentively and promised to watch it, but they watched in horror and fury as he walked out of the meeting and put it in a dustbin.

In his not-so-private life, one of his mistresses yesterday said that he had broken an understanding that neither of them would say anything in public about their relationship. This is a direct reversal of Mr Nor-

ris's accusation against another former minister, Edwina Currie, whom he accused of having betrayed him, with her revelation to the *Today* newspaper: "Minister tried to seduce me."

This actually referred to an incident when they were both at school in Liverpool. He said: "She may, I suppose, have imagined a brief fumble under her blouse behind the school hall to be an orgasmic experience, but I fear I was less impressed."

And he said that, when they met in the Members' Lobby on both being elected to the Commons in 1983, she had said: "I won't say anything if you don't." But he accused her of breaking her word by going public at precisely the time in 1993 when the tabloids published revelations about his overlapping mistresses.

At the weekend, his ex-lover Lynn Taylor launched her pre-emptive strike in the *Mail's* sister paper, the *Mail on Sunday*. "He was reading from the script of married men. His wife, Vicky, didn't understand him. They led separate lives, blah, blah. I knew his wife had just had a baby so I didn't believe a word of it," she said.

But Mr Norris sent her flowers and presents. "He was very romantic, and so, so charming. He made me laugh – he is a very funny man and in this part of the world [Wiltshire] there are not many decent, intelligent and amusing men. There I was – 39 and divorced. I thought, 'Terrific, life does begin at 40'."

In stark contrast to his version of the story, in which she is portrayed as a lonely woman who pestered him to marry her, she said he promised to marry her. "Steve went down on one knee to propose and gave me a ring, the whole bit," she said.

Others have preferred a dignified silence in response to Mr Norris's first literary effort. Mrs Currie had no comment yesterday and Mr Heseltine's office did not return our call.

For those hoping the book would provide salacious insights into recent political events, as the much-hyped comparison with Alan Clark's diaries suggested, yesterday's instalment was a disappointment.

Mr Norris recycled a *Spitting Image* sketch as a true story, recounting the time when Lady Thatcher was "dining with her Cabinet colleagues and being asked what dish she had chosen. 'I'll have the steak,' she promptly dictated. 'And what about the vegetables?' 'Oh, they'll have steak too.'"

But he warned John Major: "As long as there is breath in Michael Heseltine's body, he would lead the party if the opportunity arose."

Trade names: McDonald's yesterday told the owner of McMunchies sandwich shop in Milton Keynes to remove her sign or face legal action

Big Mac chews out little Mrs McMunchie

JOJO MOVES

Good evening, this is the news with Trevor Donald. The former beatle Paul McCartney yesterday spoke of his meeting with the former prime minister Harold Millan, while wearing a Kintosh.

This is how the fast-food giant McDonald's would apparently like the news read, if its latest foray into the legal system is anything to go by.

It has told the Scottish sandwich bar owner Mary Blair that her Buckinghamshire shop can no longer go by the name McMunchies because McDonald's is the registered user of the "Mc" prefix, it emerged yesterday.

Ms Blair, a 36-year-old Scot who does not sell burgers or chips, said she chose the name because she liked the word "munchies" and wanted to add a taste of Scotland. The sign bears both a Scottish thistle and a St Andrew's flag.

But in a statement to Ms Blair's solicitors, McDonald's said if someone, "either deliberately or unintentionally", used their trademark, they were "[in effect] using something that does not belong to them". What next? The company that has quietly set about taking over the world, ensuring that there is not a high street which does not feature its red and white plastic and its golden arches (also the prop-



Big M: McDonald's is the registered user of the 'Mc' prefix

erty of McDonald's) now apparently wants to take over Britain's heritage.

Telling Scots that they cannot use the prefix Mc is like someone registering the name Singh and then vanishing in India.

Where do they think "Mc" originated – Illinois? McDonald's says that the "unauthorised" use of the "Mc" prefix "may confuse the public". As there is no longer a five-year-old in the western world who cannot tell their Big Mac from their Whopper, their Chicken

McNugget from their KFC Bargain Bucket, an egg and mayo on brown is hardly going to shake McDonald's stock.

But then the company with an apparent view on world domination appears to have lost its perspective when it comes to the little people.

The company is at present waging a marathon High Court libel action against the environmentalists Dave Morris, 42, and Helen Steel, 30, over a leaflet they distributed which, using the prefix "Mc" against

some less than pretty words, accused the company of poisoning its customers and damaging the environment.

The trial may have done much more damage to McDonald's public image than the leaflet, which would likely have been seen by about six people had Ronald McDonald not marshalled his legal troops.

Now, it appears, the company is about to make the same mistake again. And yet, in terms of using names, McDonald's is perhaps being a little forgetful.

In June last year it was forced to climb down over its Route 66 restaurant promotion after Andre and Maxine Levy issued a writ claiming damages over use of a registered trademark.

McDonald's reached an out-of-court settlement with the two holders of the Route 66 trademark, in spite of saying that it would "vigorously defend" its right to use the name of the American highway.

And perhaps it should ponder on the use of its prefix to indicate something far from its squeaky clean corporate image.

Just as the farcical trial of Morris and Steel has become known as McLibel, the slang term now widely used to indicate low-grade, transitional employment is McJob. As far as the British public is concerned it is fast becoming a bit of a McJoke.

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Murray on fast track to ITV

Murray Walker, for many years the unmistakable voice of BBC television's Grand Prix coverage, has changed course to become ITV's main commentator when the sport switches channels next year.

Mr Walker, 72, renowned for his remarkably enthusiastic style, has signed a two-year deal with ITV, which this summer bought up rights to the live coverage of Formula One.

Speaking from Estoril in Portugal, where he commented the BBC last weekend,

Walker – who has described every Grand Prix since 1978 – said: "Motor racing is my passion and my life. Until very recently I saw that stopping, but thanks to ITV it is not and I am absolutely delighted." ITV's plans for Formula One coverage were "very impressive".

ITV has secured the rights to broadcast motor racing for five years with a bid reported to have been in the region of £70m. Capturing the services of Mr Walker, who is widely regarded as the face and voice of Formula

One, completes the picture.

Working for independent television will not be a new experience for the long-time BBC man. During the late Fifties and early Sixties he worked as a freelance, commenting on motorcycle scrambles.

ITV's network director Marcus Plantin said: "I am delighted to be able to end recent speculation and welcome Murray to ITV. Public support and affection for him is enormous." The news will delight members of the Murray Walker fan

club (Slogan: "Unless I'm very much mistaken ... I'm very much mistaken"). Although frequently mocked for his excitability when a major catastrophe occurs on the track – such as the occasion when flames engulfed the Dutch driver Jos Verstappen in the German Grand Prix – Walker's strident tones have become legendary.

His high-rev style currently features in a pizza advertisement in which he goads driver Damon Hill to near violence.

JAN 16 1997

Death of a headmaster: Street gang leader 'acted with a mixture of bravado and adrenalin'

'A good man killed for very worst of reasons'

CHARLIE BAIN

Philip Lawrence, the head teacher who was stabbed to death last December "was a genuinely good man killed for the very worst of reasons," an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Mr Lawrence, 48, was stabbed in the chest in a "deliberate, concerted and cowardly attack" by the 15-year-old leader of a street gang "acting with a mixture of bravado and adrenalin," the court heard.

The teenager, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, appeared charged with Mr Lawrence's murder yesterday on the first day of the trial in court number one of the Old Bailey.

The youth denies the charge and also denies a second charge of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and wounding with intent a 13-year-old boy. A co-defendant, aged 15, also denies the latter two charges.

John Bevan, prosecuting, told the jury of six men and six women how Mr Lawrence was knifed in the chest after he went to help one of his pupils in December last year.

The boy was ambushed and attacked in revenge after a "trivial" incident of barging into the corridor with an older boy who "boasted he was a Triad member" and threatened to bring his friends to beat him up, the prosecution alleged.

On the day of the attack, with Mr Lawrence and his pupils watching, the armed gang of 12, some wearing a uniform of dark clothes and bandanas, arrived and carried out a pre-planned "military operation".

One gang member bludgeoned the 13-year-old boy's head with a metal pole from behind. As Mr Lawrence "peaceably" confronted their leader to find out what was going on, he was stabbed.

Mr Bevan said: "A few grave

crimes each year command public attention beyond the norm and cause us collectively to pause and reflect.

"The murder of Philip Lawrence shortly before Christmas last year was one such.

"A man who in life was unknown beyond his own wide circle of family, friends and work environment was in death thrust into the national spotlight.

"The reasons include the nature of the man, the tragic waste of life which his death represents and the nature of the crime which brought it about."



Philip Lawrence: Stabbed in the chest while helping pupil

As Mr Lawrence's widow, Frances, listened, Mr Bevan said: "It was a tragic waste of the life of a genuinely good man for the worst reasons."

Mr Bevan said: "Part of his job involved looking after the safety of his pupils and it was in seeking to protect one of them that he died."

"His attacker is also a leader but of a rather different type."

"He, although only 15 at the time, was old enough to lead a gang of youths in a deliberate, concerted and cowardly attempt to attack one of Philip

Lawrence's pupils as that pupil left the school gates.

"The gang was armed and when Philip Lawrence confronted him perfectly peaceably in an attempt to find out what the trouble was, the youth, acting presumably on a mixture of bravado and adrenaline, stabbed him in the chest."

The alleged killer was from a Filipino background and did not attend Mr Lawrence's school, the jury was told.

Mr Bevan said: "For some time he had been involved in a street gang called Woo Sing Woo, which pretended to be a juvenile equivalent of a Triad and consisted of a number of youths, largely of Filipino background, meeting in Camden or the West End of London."

The younger defendant was a pupil at Mr Lawrence's school - St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale - and had plotted with fellow gang-members to attack the boy in the year below him after their "trivial" argument, alleged the prosecution.

He said one 15-year-old "reluctant" gang member had showed the courage to break ranks from the "Triad hopefuls" since the incident to tell police what had happened.

He was encouraged to take a day off school as there would be a fight. "It'll be a laugh," he was informed by one gang member.

The gang was then divided into three teams - one to lead the fight, the second to help out and the third to be "careful of attack from behind".

At all times, the youth accused of murdering Mr Lawrence was in charge of the planning, the jury heard. When told the school's headmaster would be at the front gates, the gang leader said not to worry about him, it was alleged.

The trial was adjourned until tomorrow.



The other victim: Mr Lawrence's widow Frances, who was at court yesterday listening intently to the trial's opening

Diocese gives counselling code to priests

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Priests or church workers suspected of relationships with parishioners will automatically be suspended from their posts according to a policy unveiled yesterday by the diocese of Oxford, the richest diocese in the Church of England.

The policy includes a code of ministerial practice, which says that "ministers", defined as anyone in a position of authority in the church, shall not enter into or continue any pastoral relationship for personal advantage, whether this advantage be sexual, financial, or emotional.

Ministers are also warned against visiting parishioners late at night when they are alone, or receiving visits themselves in similar circumstances. These rules codify common sense and good practice, according to the diocesan spokesman, the Rev Richard Thomas.

The guidelines were already being drawn up last year, when the Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, was tried and acquitted of charges arising from his relationship with a distressed woman whom he had counselled late one evening at her home, and a second time in his own house one evening.

The guidelines also ask priests to consider the place and time of a meeting and its duration; whether it is formal or informal; the arrangement of furniture and lighting, and "appropriate bodily posture and the use of Christian names and terms of endearment".

The Church of England has no central code of conduct on these matters, though most parishes will follow a policy very similar to that of the Oxford diocese. If the alleged abuse involves children, the police are brought in straight away. But for allegations of improper pastoral relationships with adults, the diocese recommends that the priest be moved away while the allegations are investigated. The investigation is usually to be carried out by an assistant bishop.

The policy document, which is to be sent to all the clergy in the diocese, also includes a paper on "transference", warning ministers against signs that their counselling relationship may be entering into an improper phase. Danger signs include: "The pastor begins to look forward to the counselling session with a particular person. He or she ruminates about the appointment and cannot wait for the time to arrive."

Church defends its role in Wright case

The Roman Catholic church yesterday defended its handling of the case of The Right Rev Roderick Wright as suggestions of yet more affairs rocked his colleagues.

A former housekeeper claimed to have come across notes to him from four women - and said that when she confronted him the bishop had denied everything.

Irene McKinney, 67, also said she had taken her fears to Cardinal Thomas Winning, who at the time was Archbishop of Glasgow, and to Archbishop Keith O'Brien of St Andrews, but that she had heard nothing further.

This, it has now emerged, was the meeting four years ago at which the two senior churchmen accepted Bishop Wright's categorical denial of misconduct, in which he denied the allegations as "scurrilous".

Two weeks after that meeting, Ms McKinney said, Bishop Wright said she could no longer work as his housekeeper - and told her to get out.

But Fr Noel Barry, spokesman for Cardinal Winning, said today: "The church has to operate according to its own standards. We would never... talk about a meeting which was sought and conducted on a confidential basis."

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**The RSPCA
wants to wipe out
guinea pigs.**



And there are eye irritation tests, where dyes

Any new form of testing needs to gain acceptance from the European Commission, without it the cosmetics companies cannot change their practices even if they want to.

**And then perhaps, fewer rabbits
will end up being guinea pigs.**



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news

Internet porn curbs approved

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

Internet companies received government blessing yesterday for a self-regulation system to help them police the network and stamp out illegal material such as child pornography.

The proposals include a telephone hotline to which Internet users can report material which they think is illegal, and "blocking" software which censors sites from view, so that adults can let children use the system without supervision.

But there were warnings that the response may simply be to move the problem beyond the reach of police in Europe, while creating an atmosphere which is dangerously close to censorship by proxy. "When film was a new medium it was self-regulated," said Malcolm Hetty, who runs the Campaign against Censorship of the Internet in

Britain. "But it didn't take long for the Government to create a quango and make censorship by it mandatory. I feel worried if there's a single censor here."

Ian Taylor, the science and technology minister, insisted that he was not trying to legislate on the Internet. "That would be impossible." But equally, he said, "its benefits shouldn't be undermined by the actions of a few perverts".

The proposals, called "Safety Net", mean that any user of the Internet could ring the hotline - being funded by £500,000 from Peter Dawe, formerly head of the Internet connection company PipeX - and report material that they think is illegal. If the information originated in the UK, and was reckoned to be against the law, then Safety Net will contact its Internet service provider, which will contact the person who put the information on the network and ask

them to remove it. In the case of material on foreign computers, British police could contact the owner of the computer.

Also, all companies offering connection to the Internet will offer filtering software which allows children to access only the parts of the World Wide Web - the part of the Internet offering millions of "pages" of text, pictures, video and sound - that the parents deem suitable.

US media consultant Sydney Rubin warned, however, that pornography might simply be switched to computers in countries where laws are more lax. The issue of child pornography, she says, is a distraction. "In the UK at the moment you're focused on porn. But what I am worried about, as the parent of a five-year-old, is things like the Nicole Simpson autopsy photographs - those are available on the Net. Or photographs of Bosnian atrocities."

Enter the dolls that let children play the supermodel game



Small, and perfectly formed: Karen Mulder, supermodel, appraises the Cindy brand rendition of her form, one of a collection of dolls launched in London yesterday that includes Naomi Campbell and Claudia Schiffer
Photograph: Tony Buckingham

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Anger boils as EU holds talks on beef crisis

KATHERINE BUTLER
Co Kerry

European agriculture ministers will hold talks on the beef crisis today against the background of a widening rift with Britain over the government's failure to eradicate BSE.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, will have to account for the decision to abandon a selective slaughter of 140,000 high risk cattle - the centrepiece of the BSE eradication strategy demanded of Britain in exchange for the phasing out of the ban on British beef exports.

Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, again rejected any renegotiation of the Florence deal on the cull. "There is no reason to change, there is nothing new. We will continue to develop the Florence agreement."

Anger in other member states of Britain's handling of the crisis has reached boiling point following the slaughter decision. Britain's critics believe they have little hope of reviving demand for beef - which in some countries is down by 40

per cent - until the disease is wiped out.

Europe's farmers, many of whom are facing bankruptcy as growing more militant. As ministers sit down in Killarney to discuss the long-term future of the industry, 10,000 Irish beef producers will converge on the town to protest at the collapse in prices. Their difficulties have been created mainly by a panic reaction to British BSE on key Irish export markets in the Middle East.

Yesterday, Mr Hogg joined his European colleagues on a visit to a County Kerry farm. Playing down the tensions, he said: "Relations with the other member states are excellent. Our work goes on." This view was not borne out, however, by French minister Philippe Vasseur, who said: "Britain appears to be isolating herself."

Ministers will today consider the long-term options in the knowledge that demand for beef has been irreparably damaged. France, meanwhile, is pressing for an EU farm budget surplus of £800 million to be spent on taking even more unwanted cattle off the market.

DAILY POEM

Mysticism and Democracy

By Geoffrey Hill

I am of a Dark-land, for there I was born, and there my Father and Mother are still

To the Evangelicals: a moving image of multitudes turned aside -

into the fields - with staves and bundles, through the patched sloughs, broken-down hedges, among brick stacks: unerring the voice, the direction, though the truth

is difficult to follow, a track of peculiar virtue - English - which so often deceives us by the way.

Exhaustion is the essence, though in the meantime what song has befallen those who were lagging pilgrims, or none. It is as you see. I would not trouble greatly to proclaim this.

But shelve it under Mercies.

Geoffrey Hill was born in Bromsgrove in 1932. He taught for many years at Leeds University, and later at Cambridge where he is an honorary fellow of Emmanuel College. Since 1988 he has been Professor of Literature and Religion at Boston University. Religion and religious allegory dominate Hill's poetry. In the 1950s when poets favoured the modernist, Hill had older themes in mind. His poetry has, as one critic has neatly pointed out, "defeated as many readers as has it fascinated". Penguin publish his latest collection *Canan* this week and Geoffrey Hill opens the Poetry International Festival at the South Bank on Friday. Box Office 0171-960 4242.

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Labour keeps Ashdown option

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

Labour yesterday welcomed any support the Liberal Democrats might offer a Blair government, while keeping the option open on a Cabinet seat for Paddy Ashdown.

While Liberal Democrat conference managers in Brighton tried desperately to turn media attention to policy debates on the economy, employment and energy, media interviews continued to be dominated by questions about the consequences of an inconclusive election result.

Mr Ashdown said in a series of broadcast interviews that the party was "sovereign, independent, and distinctive".

But he added: "I'm a Liberal Democrat because there are things I believe in, and that I want to put into practice, that I think are good for our country. If working with others, because they've come to agree with us, delivers those things, and is good for Britain, then I'll do it."

As for the suggestion on Sunday by Alex Carlile, Welsh Liberal Democrat leader, that the party's MPs might take seats in a Labour government, Mr Ashdown said:

"If I wanted to be a Cabinet minister, I probably wouldn't have been a Liberal Democrat."

That statement prompted Donald Dewar, the Labour Chief Whip, to say: "I think that is probably a realistic view of their prospects."

"But they're an important pressure group and of course if they agree with us, then we would want to have their support and set more effectively in the House of Commons on that basis in government."

Asked whether a Cabinet seat might be available in return for Liberal Democrat votes, Mr Dewar said: "I think we'll cross that bridge

if we come to it. We don't anticipate reaching that situation."

Mr Dewar said a Labour government would hope for Liberal Democrat support on constitutional reform and social policy and added: "I believe in sensible co-operation."

However, that did not mean that the two parties were planning marriage. "What is true is that if there is parliamentary business in which we can make common cause, then we will make common cause," he said. "Clearly, there are occasions when it is sensible to make sure that other parties who are going to be voting the same way know

what the game plan is, and there is communication."

The unwanted speculation left the Liberal Democrats distressed that their conference was being hijacked by forces beyond their control, as in previous years.

Asked whether there would be formal co-operation with a Labour government, Mr Ashdown said: "Is it possible? Yes. Is it likely? No." Nothing was ruled in, and nothing was ruled out.

Simon Hughes, the party's health spokesman, said the public wanted the sort of politics that did not make everything a confrontation.



Talking point: Paddy Ashdown (second from right) and aides at work in his hotel on the speech he is to deliver today in Brighton

Photograph: Tom Pilsto

'Tax contract' proposal to stop Treasury deceit

STEPHEN GOODWIN

The Liberal Democrats yesterday presented themselves as the only party prepared to be "honest" about tax, and even sketched out plans to give taxpayers more say in how money is raised and spent.

Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman, proposed a new "tax contract" which would be delivered to every household each year detailing sources and amounts of revenue alongside government spending.

The contract would "stop chancellors of the Exchequer deceiving the people with backdoor tax rises or more deferred taxation", Mr Bruce said.

"In time" people could be given more say in tax-and-spend options, he explained. The proposal to put an extra 1p in the pound on income tax to fund investment in schools would not be put to the test because voters have given their judgement in the election.

For the future, however, the plan for more tax on cigarettes to abolish charges for dental and eye tests is the sort of thing taxpayers could be asked about - possibly via an extra question on tax-return forms.



Bruce: More say for taxpayers

he have the guts to do it this year?" Mr Bruce said.

However, his attempt to portray the Liberal Democrats as a party of clarity was undermined by dissent on another key area of economic policy - its commitment to European economic and monetary union.

Nick Harvey, MP for Devon North, and the party's nearest thing to a Euro-sceptic, said that before monetary union could proceed, the arguments about political union had to be fought out.

"I don't think that these arguments have been won with the British people. I don't think yet that we have convinced the British people of the need for an independent central bank." Nor were people convinced of the need to make the cuts necessary to meet the economic convergence criteria for a single currency, Mr Harvey said.

Mr Bruce told the conference that only the Liberal Democrats were clear that Britain should be a founder member of the monetary union if it was able to meet the criteria.

"Monetary union requires hard decisions, but yields the prize of lower interest rates and stable exchange rates," he said.

Desperately seeking to defy definition

"What is a Liberal Democrat?" is the plaintive title on one of the most prominent publications in the Brighton Conference Centre. What indeed?

Being here is like finding oneself in the middle of a conversation of sitcom characters. Where the Tories are all blue-rinses, pearls and stripy ties, and New Labour is a convocation of mobiles, beepers and Wonderbras, Lib Dems glory in their otherness, alike only in their unalikehood.

This is the party of the cussed and the argumentative. If Victor Meldrew, Basil Fawlty and the cast of *Waiting for Godot* were to find themselves on the doorstep at election time, it's Paddy's party they'd be urging upon us.

This chaotic character extends to appearance as well as to speech. It seems to be a pretty central tenet of Lib-Dem philosophy that, just as every person is an individual in their own right, so too is each item of clothing. No vestment should be judged simply by whether it conforms to another, but must be allowed to stand up proudly for itself, to proclaim its essential jacketness, or shout out its skirtiness.

Thus, in addition to an unusually large number of purple and grey windcheaters and indoor rucksacks, the gathered ensemble shows a disregard for fashionable notions of co-ordination which is truly heroic.



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Next to me, as I write, is a man in black sports blazer, white shirt with thick grey vertical stripes, taupe tie with yellow stripes, khaki trousers and brown loafers. But he is a mild specimen compared with the chap in maroon jacket, white ankle socks and puce-and-green kilt.

A gallant reticence comes over me when considering how their female colleagues use the yellow that is the party's colour. Lib Dems have never been afraid of conflict, so they are certainly not scared of terrible clashes. The very stalls in the exhibition hall declare this cussedness. Every animal campaigning organisation known to humankind has set up shop here. The RSPCA has a big stand. So too does the RSPB. So that's birds catered for - and animals. But, just in case the delegates have failed to get the message, there is a massive display by an organisation called IFAW, which plays video tapes of foxes being slaughtered - sending into the nearby cafeteria the amplified sound of yelps, barks and dismembered vulpine shrieks.

Hands off the furry ones is the obvious message from this lot.

What then, you may well ask, of humanity? Are there similar exhibitions demanding the sympathy of delegates for the plight of their fellow men? Only one. The Voluntary Euthanasia Society has (literally) set out its rather gloomy stall. It's a popular message here. Lib Dems wear what they want to, so they're bloody well going to die when they want to. Got it?

If death does not intimidate them, nor will the army of spin-doctors, image-consultants and speech-writers to tailor their public utterances to appeal to the television cameras or, indeed, the audience in the hall.

This was exemplified, in a day of worthy and slightly eccentric utterances, by the presidential address of Robert MacLennan, MP for the far-flung crofts and bothies of Caithness and Sutherland.

Bob is not a natural orator. Indeed, he is almost an unnatural orator. From Cornwall he took us to Louis XIV, from Browning to Camus, from Edward Munch to Freddie Kruger.

This discursive and un-themed journey was undertaken in a soft, prim and high-pitched, slightly camp voice, as though by a female impersonator who had not had time to get changed into his wig and pinafore. It was a pure delight, and could not have been delivered anywhere else. That is a Liberal Democrat.

YESTERDAY AT THE CONFERENCE

- 1 Whole-hearted re-commitment to Britain's role in Europe
- 1 Levy on employers who spend too little on training
- 1 Encourage householders to use water meters
- 1 Levy on water company profits
- 1 Phased introduction of carbon tax, hitting heavy car users



"Malcolm Riffkind and Kenneth Clarke are to successful Conservative European harmony what Lib Dem Noel Gallagher are to sustained American touring," Charles Kennedy.

"Tony Blair's Band is now little more than Echo. Tax cuts? 'Me too', says Tony," Malcolm Bruce.

"Thanks to them we now have more trained hairdressers than any country in Europe. They may not have a job but their coiffure is immaculate," Chris Davies, employment spokesman, on Tory training schemes.



ROBERT MACLENNAN
party president, managed to get more literary allusions in one speech - Browning, Orwell, Camus and more - than pepper a

LORD JENKINS
leader of the Lib Dem peers, absent from the conference because he made a muddle in his diary and is in the United States

MICHAEL PORTILLO
Robert MacLennan described the Defence Secretary's Euro-sneering SAS speech last year as on "the threshold fascism... a sort of verbal goosetep."

Guardian debate on why the Lib Dems always come third. Starred Emma Nicholson, Lord Rodgers (ex Gang of Four) Menzies Campbell, 400 people.

The European Movement. Lonely Lib Dem Euro-sceptic Nick Harvey took on the party big guns, 150 people.

Scotch Whisky Association - plenty of it. ITN - drink 'till late. Dame Sue Tinson, acting the political hostess once again.

The man from the Qatar embassy. Fascinating priorities for the tiny but rich gulf state.

Malcolm Bruce, economics spokesman **49 secs**
Charles Kennedy, European Affairs spokesman **33 secs**
Robert MacLennan: **28secs**

TODAY'S BUSINESS

Paddy Ashdown delivers his keynote speech. Debates on Northern Ireland, crime, gun control, reform of the Commons and "cleaning up the mess in politics".

Compiled by Stephen Goodwin

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news

Film world in mourning over death of 'wonderful actress' who played sidekick in Hope and Crosby 'road' movies

Credits roll for Dorothy Lamour, queen of the silver screen



Star quality: Dorothy Lamour - 'a grand lady on screen as in life'

Photographs: Ronald Grant

REBECCA FOWLER

The sultry sarong queen who took to the highways in the film world's best-loved road movies, accompanied by Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, has died aged 81.

Dorothy Lamour had been ill for some time at her home in north Hollywood.

She was remembered as one of the most glamorous sidekicks of the silver screen and a fine comedienne yesterday.

Lamour appeared in a total of eight top-ranking films in the 1940s that took the trio to Singapore, Zanzibar, Morocco, Utopia and Rio and made millions for Paramount.

The slick, wise-cracking movies were once described by Hope as "like a tennis game with Dotie in the middle watching."

Lamour in turn said of the films, in which she famously wore a sarong: "I was the happiest and highest-paid straight woman in the business."

Hope said in a statement that was released yesterday: "She was a grand lady on screen as in life. She was a lady of quality, beauty and class, which always made me look good."

"She was a wonderful actress, a great performer and a dear friend."

Lamour began her career singing in nightclubs and on the radio, and although the road movies including *Road to Rio* and *Road to Morocco* were a huge success, she never achieved stardom alone, always acting as a foil to the bigger names.

At the end of the 1940s, she settled down to life as a housewife in Baltimore, before making a brief comeback in 1952 with two films - DeMille's box-office hit *The Great Show on Earth* and another "road" movie, this time en route to Bali.

Michael Winner, who directed her in a cameo role in 1975 in *Won Ton Ton the dog which saved Hollywood*, was among those who paid tribute. "I had grown up with her in the sense that I had her as a pin-up wearing her sarong on the wall in my room at school," he said.

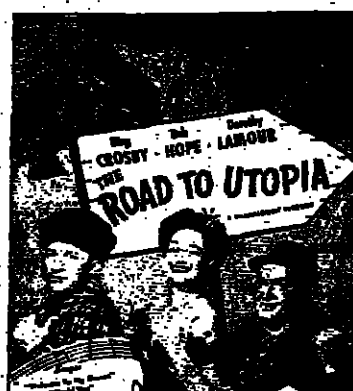
"Then years later I met a very dignified and sweet lady and she became a friend of mine."

He added: "You could describe her as the Pamela Anderson of the 1940s, but with great dignity, and she was loved by everyone, young and old. But she was far from being just a good-looking girl in a sarong and was actually a very good comedienne as well. She will be sorely missed, she was a real lady and I have very fond memories of her."

Obituary, page 16

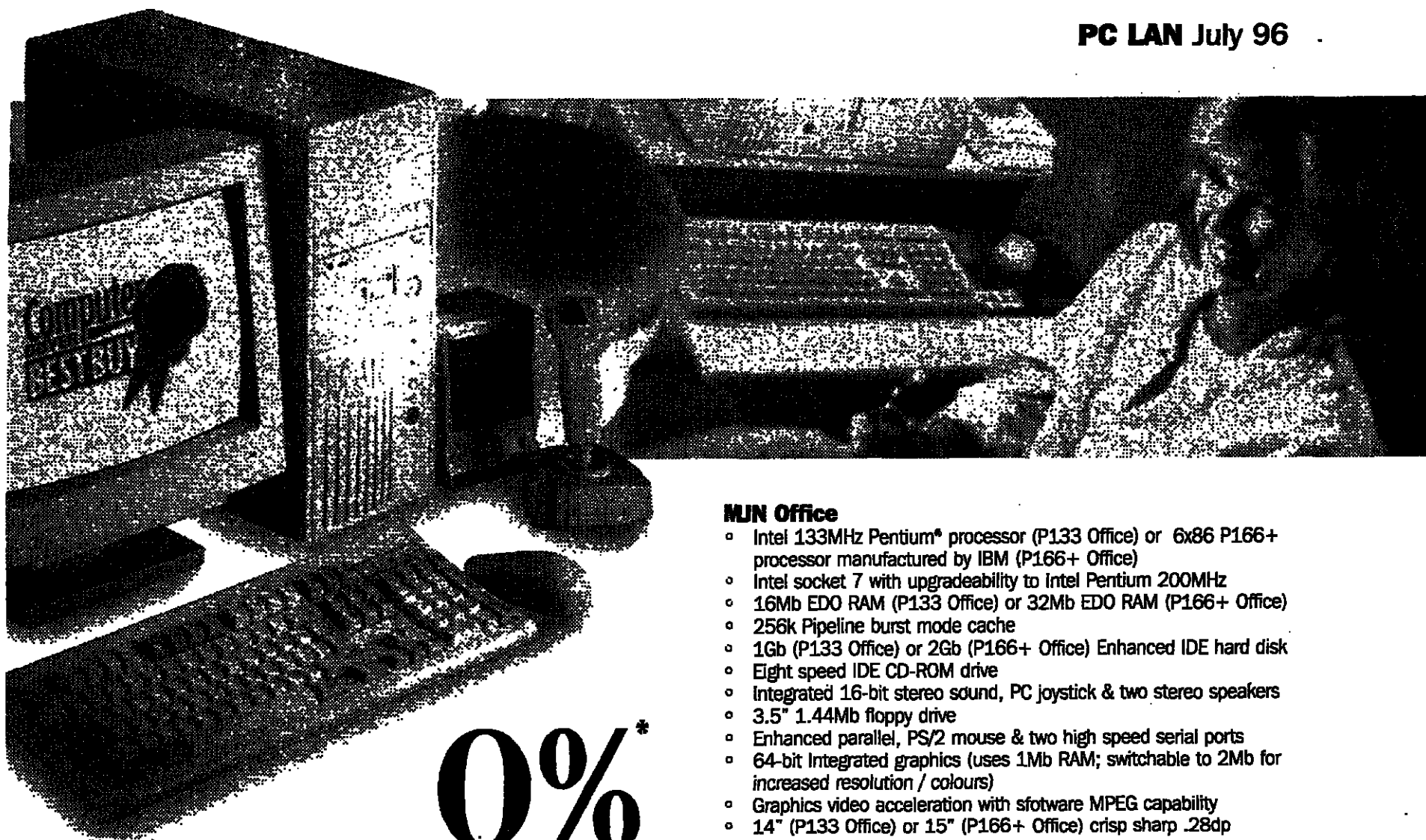


Lamour with Bob Hope (above) in *Road to Rio*, and joined (below) by Bing Crosby in *Road to Utopia*



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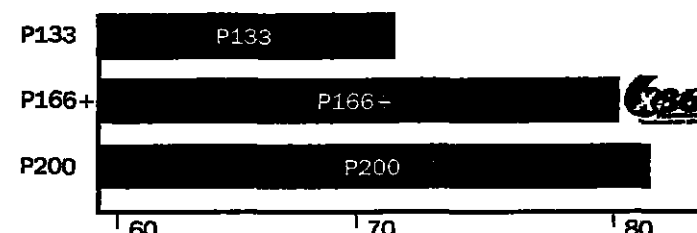


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Training chiefs beg be spared budget axe

ANTHONY BEVINS

A remarkable begging letter, in which the nation's youth trainers offer the Government their political support in return for the preservation of their threatened budgets, has been sent to Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, by the Training and Enterprise Councils.

The letter, leaked to *The Independent*, shows the depths to which cash-strapped government agencies are being forced to sink in advance of November's budget spending cuts.

With the Chancellor under strong pressure to offer the Tories pre-election tax cuts, few government departments have any hope of fending off the Treasury axe.

If past trends are pursued, the trainers are in the firing line for further raids by the Treasury. In 1993-94, the Tecs got £1.861bn. By last year, they were down to £1.461bn, with hard-pressed Merseyside suffering a cut of £16m and Tyneside down £15m.

Against that background, the Tec national council desperately blows the trumpet of its own achievements in a cash bid presented for a meeting with Mrs Shephard on 30 September.

But it also attacks "the failure of the school system", offers the Tecs' political support to "confound" Opposition claims that youth training programmes have failed, and urges ministers to raise other "youth budgets" to sustain Tec spending.

Sir Garry Johnson, chairman of the Tec national council, tells Mrs Shephard that while the majority of sixth-form and college students have four or more GCSEs at grade A-C, the majority of Tec students have no A-C level GCSEs, and a tenth have no GCSE passes at all.

The letter says that all Tec achievements have been made "against levels of prior attainment by young people entering Youth Training that are exceptionally low".

He continues: "Despite the obvious failure of the school system with these trainees, they demonstrate they have real capability in a supportive work-based programme, with dropout levels only slightly higher than schools and colleges and achievement levels that are approaching those of full-time provision."

But the most potent paragraph of the letter offers Mrs Shephard much needed - and totally improper - political support against Labour and the Liberal Democrats, while urging her to rob sixth forms and colleges to provide the Tecs with desperately needed cash.

Sir Garry says: "Tecs and the Government working together have confounded opposition claims that youth training programmes have failed - and council intends to say so loudly over the next two months." The timing suggests a Tec campaign on behalf of the Government in the critical run up to the Budget.

He urges Mrs Shephard to make cuts elsewhere, saying: "In our view, the Modern Apprenticeship programme, National Traineeships and the Youth Guarantee must all be able to respond to the demand that young people make upon them."

With more than 250,000 trainees on Tec courses last April, Sir Garry adds: "Participation is increasing and resources must be increased to meet that demand. If necessary from other areas of the Department's youth budgets."

Stephen Byers, Labour's training and employment spokesman, said last night that having suffered a £40m budget cut in two years, it was not surprising that the Tec bid was so desperate.

"What is regrettable, is the extent to which the Tecs seem prepared to offer up other parts of the training and youth programmes as sacrificial lambs in order to protect what is left of our training programme."

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A high degree of success for the story of longitude



Publishers' choice: Dava Sobel admits she has been astonished by the extraordinary sales of her book, *Longitude*

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

Marianne Macdonald on the bestselling novel about a carpenter and a scientific conundrum

An extraordinary account of a carpenter who taught himself horology to solve one of science's most urgent problems — how to calculate longitude — has become an unexpected publishing success.

Dava Sobel, 49, a former science reporter for the *New York Times*, has been astonished by sales of her book. It has been in the top 10 of the American bestseller list for more than 20 weeks and is now top of the British list.

Simply entitled *Longitude*, it is the story of a Yorkshire carpenter, John Harrison, who invented a clock which allowed sailors to chart their geographical position on the high seas. In doing so, he solved a centuries-old conundrum which had caused the death of thousands of travellers and the loss

of fortunes. Such was its importance that in 1714 the British government offered a £20,000 prize — worth several million pounds today — to whoever could solve the problem.

In simple terms, Harrison's clock allowed sailors to measure their position by allowing them to tell the time accurately on board for the first time. The earth takes 24 hours to complete a revolution of 360 degrees, so each hour of time difference marks 15 degrees of longitude. His clock allowed sailors to compare the time at sea (easily done at noon) with the time in London, or another place of fixed longitude.

Ms Sobel became interested

in the subject when she met Will Andrews, curator of scientific instruments at Harvard and formerly in charge of the three Harrison clocks, H1, H2 and H3, in the Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

"He was organising a symposium on marine instruments and I went along," she said. "I was intrigued by his passion for the subject so I went along and I found the Harrison story unbelievable."

By then a freelance writer, Ms Sobel wrote an article, but nobody wanted to publish it until it was at last taken by *Harvard* magazine.

The publisher George Walker read it, was fascinated and

then asked Ms Sobel to write a book on the subject.

She admits: "It is a title to strike dread in the heart." Yet the subject gripped her — the battle of a self-taught genius against the scientific Establishment which refused to recognise that Harrison's invention could work or to give him the prize.

Speaking on *Start the Week* yesterday, Ms Sobel said his invention was vital. "It was so important because sailors were dying by the thousands and because cargoes worth the wealth of nations were being lost."

"Latitude one can tell by determining the height of the sun above the horizon, but once out of sight of land — your longitude

is anybody's guess. It's quite sobering to realise that all the great voyages of exploration were undertaken against this obstacle."

Harrison decided to solve the longitude question, she told the *Radio 4* programme.

"He had taught himself clock-making and he knew of this problem because he lived near a major port. One of the major difficulties with having a clock work on board ship... is dealing with the fact that a ship sails through vastly different temperatures and anything made of metal will expand or contract."

"It was really his genius in combining metals which overcame that problem. It had never been done before."

□ *Longitude*, Fourth Estate; £12.99.

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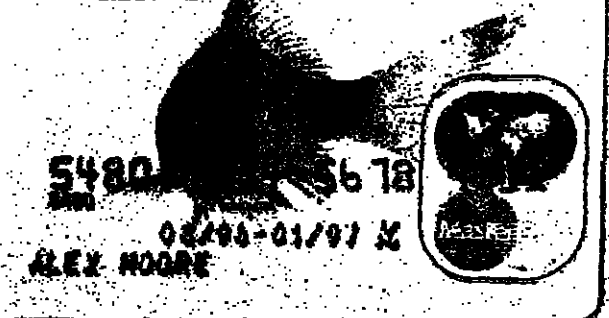
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Martin Guerre comes back fighting

CLARE GARNER

The ill-fated musical *Martin Guerre* is to close. But four days later it is to reopen with a radically altered first act.

Sir Cameron Mackintosh has taken the "unusual" step of re-launching a musical within months of its opening in an effort to boost box-office takings.

Martin Guerre Mark Two will kick off with a new opening number on 1 November.

Despite six years of preparation and an expenditure of £3.5m, Sir Cameron's latest musical has failed to elicit anything like the response of its world-famous predecessors, *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*, also written by the French duo, Alain Boublil and Claude Michel Schönberg.

"You can't just turn on the tap and put a show on," said Sir Cameron yesterday. "Most shows evolve and in the old days they used to go out of town on the road for anything up to six months before opening on Broadway or in London. The kinks were knocked out of them then. Unfortunately because of economics we don't have the ability to do that."

"One forgets that the norm is that shows often have to find their own way. Even *Les Misérables* took 12 to 16 weeks to really sell out and find its audience."

Martin Guerre failed to impress the critics when it opened

at the Prince Edward Theatre in Soho last June. Some complained that there were too few hit songs; others felt the show had "abandoned any pretence at suspense".

The story is already familiar to many people through two film versions, *The Return of Martin Guerre* starring Gérard Depardieu, in 1982, and *Sommersby*, with Richard Gere and Jodie Foster in 1993.

But Sir Cameron rejected any comparison. The musical was

never an attempt to "put the film on stage", he said, and the new version will not try to insert any of the film's ambiguity about whether the man who returns to his 16th-century French village claiming to be Martin Guerre is in fact an impostor.

"We're doing our own version of this true story," he insisted. "There have been several different versions of it. We are not trying to get closer to the film. All we're trying to do is do what

we've done and see if we can make it even clearer."

"What we have works, but we feel we can make it work better," said Sir Cameron.

Sir Cameron refused to divulge exactly how much money he was ploughing into the new version, but said it was "not nearly as much" as the £500,000 Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber successfully spent on restructuring the ailing *Sunset Boulevard* in 1994.

He admitted that it was rare

to make changes to a show so soon after its opening. "We have taken the unusual step of making changes before the end of the first year," he said.

"We all decided about two or three weeks after the show opened, once we'd got it on and had a look at it. Obviously, all decisions like this come from the actual authors. They decided they wanted to get to work straight away instead of waiting until the cast change at the end of the year."

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news

Parents asked to pay for A-levels

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

A sixth-form college in Cambridge is so short of funds that it has asked parents to help fund its £100,000 exam fee bill.

The 1,600-pupil Long Road College says that Government cuts have forced it to make the appeal for contributions.

Most of the college's pupils take three A-levels at a cost of between £28 for each ordinary A-level and £50 or more for each modular A-level. About 100 also take GCSEs costing at least £15 each and 200 do GNVQs (advanced vocational qualifications) at more than £80 each. So far parents have contributed varying amounts from £5 to £120.

Traditionally, neither schools nor sixth-form colleges have charged students exam fees but Long Road's funding has been cut by 28 per cent in the past three years as part of the squeeze on spending in further education and sixth-form colleges.

Madeline Craft, the college's principal, said: "I am not at all happy. I feel parents are being asked unreasonably to cope with the reduced budget. We have asked people to give what they can. Some parents have not contributed anything and I quite understand that."

She said the college had made a number of efficiency gains. Staff had increased their

working time by about 18 per cent - three and a half hours a week - and students were being taught in larger groups. "My fear is that we are now moving into a stage where we are not becoming more efficient but are making cuts."

The Government restricts the number of students in further education and sixth form colleges by the funds it allocates to them. This year Long Road has offered places to an extra 100 students who are not fully-funded by the Government. The decisions to appeal for exam fees was taken to help fund those students.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "This is the first time I have heard of a sixth form college resorting to this expedient. It is symptomatic of the desperation of principals and heads looking for ways of reducing the enormous pressures on their budgets."

Until three years ago, sixth form colleges were funded through local education authorities. Now their funds are channelled through the Further Education Funding Council, a quango.

Ngalo Creaquer, of the Association of Colleges, whose members include sixth form colleges said: "It is a policy we do not recommend though we do know that some colleges are facing great hardship."

At last the clean-up begins on the filthy acres that blight the face of Britain

Companies will be forced to detoxify contaminated land in a bid to ease pressure on green-field sites.
Nicholas Schoon reports

Companies which cause dangerous land contamination will be compelled to detoxify their sites under new laws. In some circumstances they could even be forced to meet the cost of clean-up even though they had long ago sold the land to someone else.

Ministers hope the new legal regime will remove the blight which surrounds tracts of derelict land in industrial areas and inner cities, and thereby reduce the pressure to develop green-field sites.

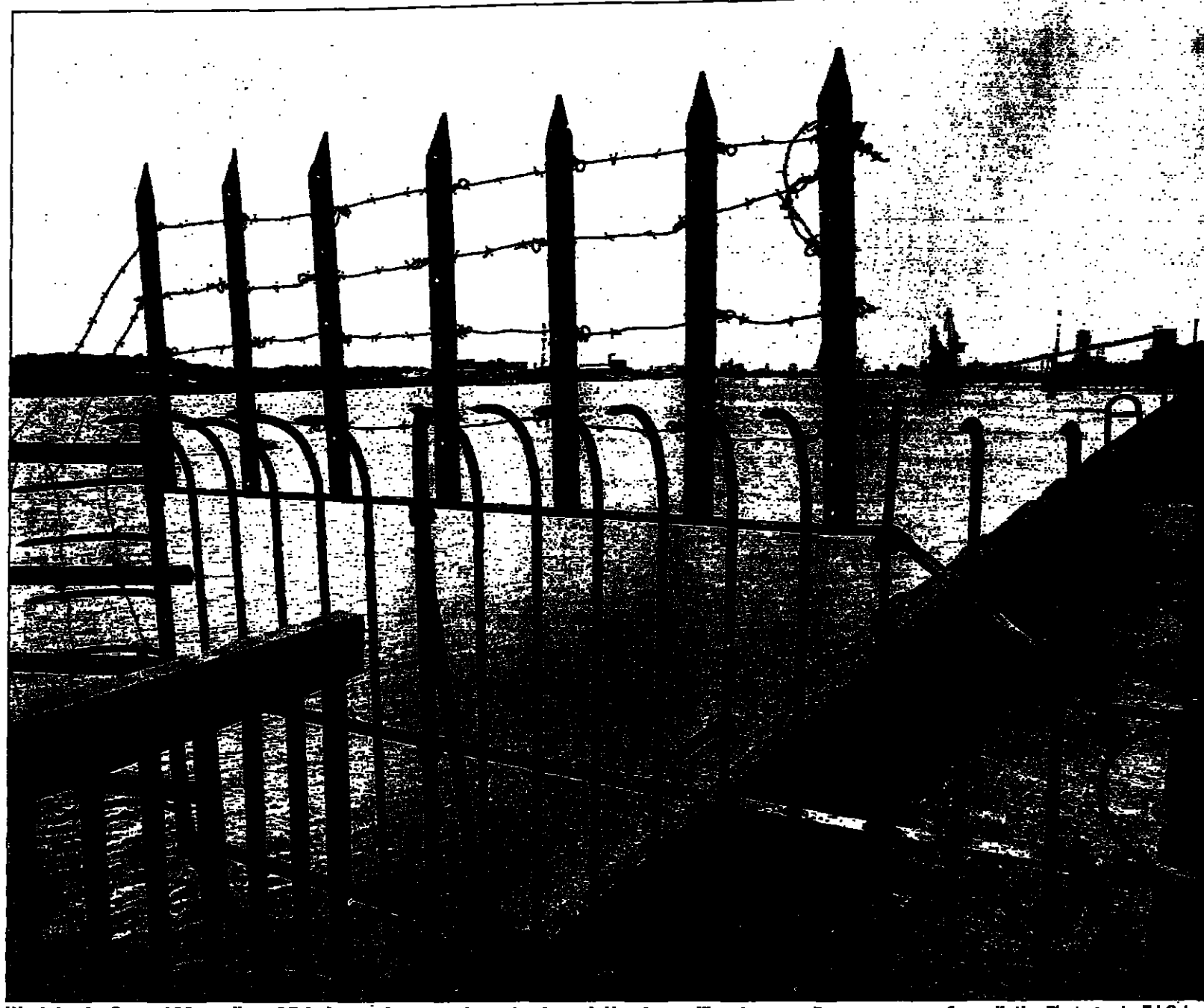
The Department of the Environment last week published guidance which is a prerequisite for the new regulations. It covers sites contaminated with toxic chemicals and metals, or where rotting waste produces dangerous levels of the explosive gas methane.

Until now, much of the pollution affecting human health and life from such sites was covered by statutory nuisance laws more than a century old. Uncertainties about who was responsible for cleaning up dangerously contaminated sites, who would foot the bill and what standard of clean-up were required made many developers wary of buying such land and putting it back into use.

The new regulations will compel local councils to survey their areas and identify those sites where there is a significant risk of water pollution or threats to people.

Once they do that - and there is no deadline as yet - the Government will at last have some idea of how much seriously contaminated land there is in Britain. At the moment there are only the vaguest estimates.

But there are believed to be many hundreds of severely contaminated sites covering more than 100 square miles. One of



Wastelands: Some 100sq miles of Britain may be severely contaminated. New laws will make councils survey areas for pollution. Photograph: Ed Sykes

the most detailed large-scale surveys ever done covered Wales and it identified 746 potentially contaminated sites covering 16 square miles - the size of Swansea.

Councils will either reach agreement with whoever caused the contamination on how they should remove the threat or, failing that, order them to do so.

If the company or the individual responsible refused, then the council can get the work done itself and claim the money back.

The clean-up will have to be the bare minimum required for whatever use is planned for the site. Thus housing and shopping centre land will have to be detoxified to a higher standard than playing fields or car

parks. A company which caused contamination but then sold the land on will not be liable for the clean-up costs if the purchaser knew about the likely problems when the site was bought. Instead the new owner will take on this responsibility.

Dozens of the contaminated sites which require remediation are expected to be "orphan

sites", where whoever caused the contamination cannot be traced, has ceased to trade or cannot afford to pay. Councils will have to rely on central government grants to deal with such sites.

David Cuckson, a solicitor with a City firm who specialises in environmental law, predicted a patchy response from

councils under the new regime. "Some are keen to do something about contaminated land, others don't see it as having any priority."

"The problem for councils is that, having made the effort and identified problem sites, they might end up not being able to identify the polluters or they could plead hardship."

Five hours' profit pays water firm fines

NICHOLAS SCHOON
Environment Correspondent

Despite being prosecuted 240 times since privatisation, the fines imposed on the big 10 water companies of England and Wales add up to the profits they make in just five hours, the Labour Party said yesterday.

But the party would make no cast iron commitment to raise the maximum magistrates' court

fine for water pollution above the current £20,000, or make courts give more weight to previous pollution convictions.

Frank Dobson, the party's environment spokesman, said a Labour government would consider changing the sentencing regime and bringing in a minimum fine for water pollution.

Labour has obtained details of 240 prosecutions since the industry's 1989 privatisation from

the Environment Agency. On average there have been three a month, but there have already been 28 prosecutions this year compared with 31 in the whole of last year and 25 in 1994.

The figures show the great majority of prosecutions arise from effluent from sewage works and are dealt with by magistrates with fines of a few thousand pounds. Fines above £10,000 have been rare. "Clear-

ly the water companies are not sufficiently embarrassed to take these pollution offences seriously," said Mr Dobson. "They have shown they are not prepared to give sufficient priority to ending these incidents."

"In other words, pollution is the cheaper option. This has got to be stopped... heavier fines are the only answer."

Severn Trent has the worst record with 42 prosecutions

while South West, with seven, has the least.

Earlier this year Severn Trent, Britain's second largest water company, received the largest ever fine for a water company. A judge at Cardiff Crown Court fined it £175,000 with £44,000 costs and compensation after chemicals from its water treatment works at Rhayader, Powys, killed thousands of fish along one of the

best stretches of fly fishing river in Wales.

The Water Services Association, which represents nine of the big 10 companies, said: "Our performance is one of sustained improvement." He said hundreds of sewage works had been upgraded or built from scratch since privatisation and Environment Agency figures showed a sharp improvement in the quality of river water across

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Take advantage of this great culinary offer with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday and savour a taste of France at a very special price.

We have joined forces with Café Rouge, the restaurant chain that offers straightforward French cooking at value for money prices, to offer you the chance to sample the new autumn menu at a unique rate. Together with a friend, you can enjoy a two course lunch plus coffee, worth up to £13, for just £5 each, or a three course evening meal plus coffee, worth up to £18, for just £10 each. Service is included in both prices.

There are 66 Café Rouge restaurants, located in England and Scotland, which are participating in our offer. For further details, see our list printed on the right.

How to Qualify

To qualify for the offer, simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing in The Independent and Independent on Sunday. If you have a Starter Token, it can be used instead of a numbered token, but only one Starter Token can be used to make up your token collection.

Attach two tokens to one of the special vouchers printed in the paper (each of which bears a third token) and take it to your nearest Café Rouge between 30 September and 13 October inclusive, to enjoy one of our two great offers - lunch for £5 or dinner for £10. You must identify yourself as an 'Independent / Café Rouge Voucher Holder' and present your voucher and tokens on arrival at the restaurant. You will be given a copy of our exclusive menu, details of which are printed on this page.

Today we print Token 4; Token 5 will be printed in tomorrow's paper. Our first voucher was printed in yesterday's Independent, further vouchers will be printed on Thursday 26 and Sunday 29 September.

If you want to try both of our superb offers of lunch for £5 and dinner for £10, you can do so. Just remember to collect three differently numbered tokens plus a voucher for each offer.

Tokens can be redeemed at any time between 30 September and 13 October 1996 inclusive.

Terms and Conditions

1. The offer entitles two people to either Lunch for £5 each or dinner for £10 each when a voucher and three differently numbered tokens are presented at one of the Café Rouges listed in our promotion.
2. Only one Starter Token can be used instead of a numbered token.
3. The cost of drinks is not included in either offer and a 12.5% optional service charge will be added to the cost of any drinks or purchases additional to the offer.
4. Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are not acceptable.
5. The offer is valid from 30 September to 13 October 1996.
6. For readers who have an Independent/Café Rouge promotional postcard, this qualifies as a voucher. It can be redeemed at any Café Rouge restaurant listed in our promotion, as long as two differently numbered tokens are attached, alongside your Starter Token.
7. Offer does not apply to Café Rouge Dublin.

CAFÉ ROUGE RESTAURANT BAR CAFE

TOKEN 4

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at CAFÉ ROUGE

RESTAURANT BAR CAFE



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If you are not sure where your nearest Café Rouge is, simply call 0171 478 8042 for details. Opening hours are Mon-Sat: 10am-11pm, Sun: 10am-10.30pm. For city branches, check with your local Café Rouge.

THE INDEPENDENT

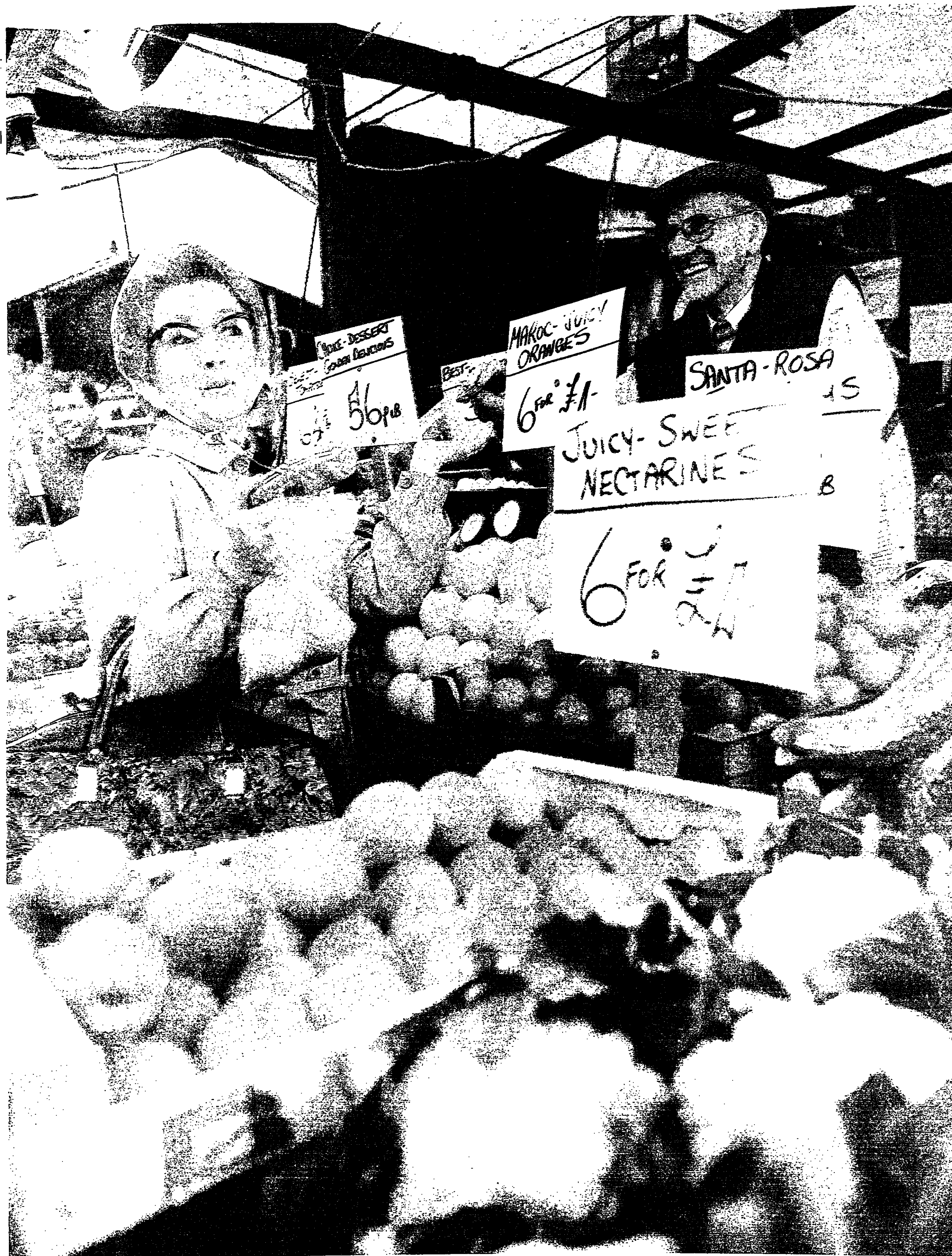
SPECIAL OFFER MENU

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Plats Chauds Saumon Grille Beurre blanc Pommes de Terre Rissolées Grilled Salmon with Rissoles Potatoes & Beurre blanc or Poulet Rôti au Gratin Dauphinois Roast Breast of Chicken with Dauphinois Potatoes Filter coffee	Plats Chauds Nocerin d'Agneau Traditional Lamb stew cooked on the bone or Marmite Dauphinoise Narrowly Fish Stew of Scallops, Mussels, Prawns and Salmon finished with Mushrooms and Cream Desserts Oranges Caramélisées Caramelised Oranges, Cinnamon Ice Cream or Profiteroles Sauce Caramel Profiteroles filled with Vanilla Ice Cream, Buttercream Sauce Filter coffee

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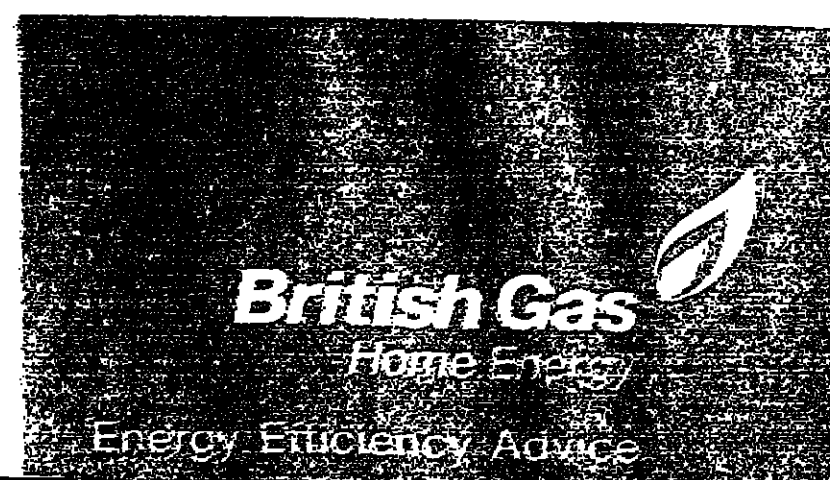
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هكذا من الأصل

The living proof of Rwanda's mass rapes

David Orr talks to a Tutsi victim of Hutu soldiers bent on genocide

Kigali — There are days when Leonille Mukamugera says she would prefer to be dead. This 35-year-old is one of an unknown number of women raped during the Rwandan genocide two years ago. The baby boy she now holds is a constant reminder of the atrocities she suffered.

Testimonies from women like her suggest that rape was widespread during the genocide. Those abused were mostly members of the Tutsi minority and their assailants were soldiers or militiamen (Interahamwe) from the Hutu majority. Many women were killed after their ordeal, but a number survived to bear witness to the horrors which began in April 1994 and lasted for three months.

Leonille lives in the desperately poor Kigombe district of the capital, Kigali. Her home is a mud-walled cabin with a leaking corrugated iron roof. It used to belong to her brother, who was murdered during the early part of the genocide along with her husband, mother, four sisters and their children. She lives with four children from her marriage and the baby, born early last year as a product of her rape.

A crowd of children gather at the door of the cabin as Leonille begins to tell her story. She looks up from the rickety couch and stalls in mid-sentence, worried and ashamed that they will hear what she is about to

say. A woman friend waves the crowd away and closes the door, plunging the home into darkness. A single, tiny window throws a shaft of light onto a row of cheap religious pictures pinned to the wall.

"My husband was killed within two days of the start of the killing," says Leonille, her voice barely audible through the gloom. "I went with my children to an army camp, but we were turned away. A Hutu man invited us into his house, but chased us out after a couple of days."

"Then another one took us and a number of others into his house. He said he would have to hide us individually and I was led to a nearby building which was under construction."

Leonille pauses and frowns as if perplexed by the nature of the events she is describing. She stares at the floor, but eventually looks up and continues.

"That night a group of soldiers came. It seemed they knew I would be there. One of them said, 'I am going to kill you. If you don't want to die, show me what Tutsi women are like'."

"Then he took hold of me and threw me on to the ground. He forced himself on me and when he was finished two others took it in turns to do the same thing."

Leonille discovered that she was pregnant in the weeks following the liberation of the



Love born of hate: Leonille nurses her son Jean Ishimwe, product of a rape by Hutu soldiers in Rwanda

Photograph: Sarah Martone

country by the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front, who went on to form the current Rwandan government. At first she considered an abortion, but then decided to have the child.

The plight of women like

Leonille is told in a report published today by Human Rights Watch, an international human rights agency. Entitled *Shattered Lives: Sexual Violence during the Rwandan Genocide and its Aftermath*, the report is

a damning indictment of a regime whose hatreds caused the deaths of at least half-a-million people and portrays the lasting torment of countless survivors.

It claims that rape during the

genocide was commonplace and that thousands of women were individually raped, gang-raped, raped with objects such as sharpened sticks or gun barrels, held in sexual slavery or sexually mutilated. "During the

Rwandan genocide," says the report, "rape and other forms of violence were directed primarily against Tutsi women because of both their gender and their ethnicity. The extremist propaganda which

exhorted Hutu to commit the genocide specifically identified the sexuality of Tutsi women as a means through which the Tutsi community sought to infiltrate and control the Hutu community."

"This propaganda fuelled the sexual violence perpetrated against Tutsi women as a means of dehumanising and subjugating all Tutsi."

Victims of sexual abuse during the genocide suffer persistent health problems. The most common ailments encountered by doctors who have treated raped women are sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

The number of children born to raped women is estimated to be between 2,000 and 5,000. Some women have abandoned their unwanted children or even committed infanticide, while others have suffered serious complications from self-induced or clandestine abortions.

"So many women have suffered like me and so many have unwanted children," says Leonille Mukamugera. "Many of my neighbours shun me because they say I have an Interahamwe child. They are afraid he might kill them when he grows up."

The most pressing problem she faces is that of poverty. Aside from the small donations for food she receives from the Barakabaho Foundation, a local agency, she has no means of supporting her family.

Leonille has called her son Jean Ishimwe. In Kinyarwanda, the Rwandan language, his name means "Thanks to God".

Korean spy saga wrecks hopes of lasting peace

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

Diplomats from Seoul, Washington and Tokyo will today begin a series of meetings in New York in an attempt to salvage hopes of a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula as forces from the South hunt the last of a group of shipwrecked northern spies.

Relations between the two Koreas are at their lowest ebb for more than two years after a North Korean submarine ran aground on the South Korean coast last week while apparently on a spying mission. Twenty-one of the vessel's crew have been killed or captured in a manhunt that has also left three South Korean soldiers and one civilian dead.

But the greatest damage has been diplomatic: after several indecisive months, the submarine incident puts paid to hopes of a speedy settlement of the Korean problem. As recently as

May, there were reasons for optimism. At a bilateral summit on the island of Cheju, South Korea's President Kim Young Sam and the US President, Bill Clinton, announced a joint proposal for peace talks involving the two Koreas and their respective Korean War allies, America and China.

Since food shortages last year, caused by heavy floods and a chronically stagnant economy, the North has been badly in need of outside help, and as recently as last week, officials were saying they needed "further clarification" of the proposal for talks. The US, South Korea and Japan have since discussed ways of making talks attractive to the North, possibly with the promise of further aid or diplomatic contacts. But circumstances have conspired to make compromise with the North an unattractive prospect.

In the United States, an election is being fought between two parties whose only important

foreign policy difference concerns Korea: the Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole, has made it clear he opposes aid for the North, while it would be disastrous for Mr Clinton to be seen cosying up to a Communist dictatorship.

Japan has also been distracted by an imminent general election; and in South Korea the incident has played into the hands of hardliners who oppose any concessions to Pyongyang.

Yesterday, at the end of a visit to Sweden, the US Defence Secretary, William Perry, rejected North Korea's claim that the "spy" submarine was on a routine mission. But he stressed the need for calm.

The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, will meet tomorrow with the South Korean Foreign Minister, Gong Ro Myung. In private, at least, Seoul is certain to call for a tougher line, and neither Washington nor Tokyo will be in a position to disagree.

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In command: A KDP fighter directs a family of PUK supporters back to their village on the border with Iraq

Photograph: AFP

Beaten Kurdish chief warns of new offensive

Choman, Iraq-Iran border — "First we have to collect our troops. Then we will no longer stay on the defensive," said Jamal Mohammed, a senior field commander of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), at his headquarters in a narrow, easily defended valley in the high mountains on the Iraqi side of the border with Iran.

Looking relaxed and not afraid of attack by the victorious Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), he said 85 per cent of his forces were intact after the PUK was driven out of two-thirds of Kurdistan this month.

In the first interview by a senior PUK officer still fighting in Kurdistan since the defeat, Jamal Mohammed, also known

A commander tells Patrick Cockburn that the PUK is rallying its forces again

as Mamosta Jamal, told *The Independent* he and his men would fight "so long as Masoud Barzani [the leader of the KDP] has an agreement with the Iraqi government". Sitting in a mud-roofed house at Choman, surrounded by heavily armed *pesh marga* (Kurdish soldiers), he seemed not to care if the KDP knew where he was; he said his position, down a track cut into the side of a mountain, was too strong for him to be driven out. A neatly dressed man in brown Kurdish military uniform with a field radio clipped to his belt, he said there had been fighting the previous day. Asked if there was a chance that he and his men might lay down their arms, he said any agreement depended on the KDP breaking relations with Baghdad. Otherwise he would launch a counter-attack.

Eight hours' drive away the previous day, the KDP, at its headquarters at Salahudin, had insisted that the PUK and its leader, Jalal al Talabani, were a spent force. Sami Abd al Rahman, the KDP spokesman, said: "Talabani has only 2,000 men with him. He can only do something if Iranians support him and use their long-range artillery."

But the 3.5 million Kurds in northern Iraq still do not know whether the Kurdish civil war, which raged for two years, is over. The PUK suffered few casualties because of the speed of its retreat and still has many partisans. In the isolated villages of eastern Sulaymaniyah province,

a stronghold of Mr Talabani, people said they expected more fighting. Abdullah Hussein, Aziz, a shepherd, said: "The PUK still have a lot of men. Do you think they will do nothing?"

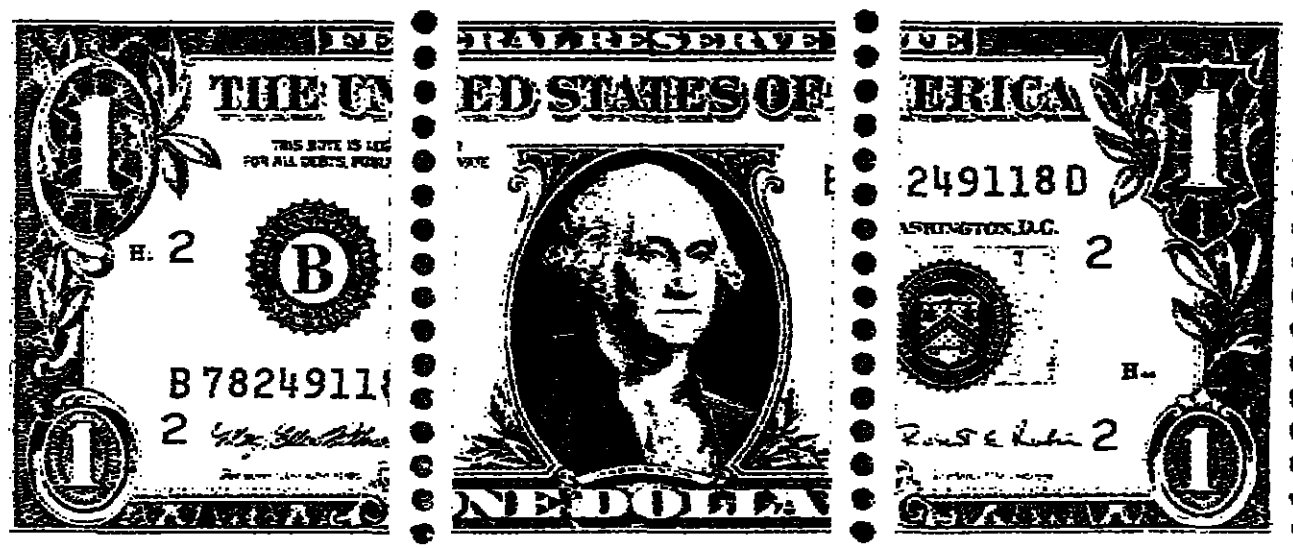
In this vacuum the *pesh marga* of the PUK will be almost impossible to repress. But to make a real comeback the PUK will have to persuade the Kurds that Mr Barzani's alliance with Saddam Hussein during the war marks the return of Iraqi rule.

Abdullah Hussein, the shepherd we met, said: "We are scared that the Iraqis took Arbil and the UN did nothing." A young *pesh marga* to whom we gave a lift said he had joined the PUK the previous week, "because when I heard of the deal with Iraq I became angry".

The KDP portrays the PUK as the catspaw of Iran. This was denied so repeatedly by the PUK *pesh marga* at Choman as to excite some suspicion. The village straddles the Iran-Iraq border and one villager was fording the river to visit the Iranian half of Choman, where an Iranian army tent was visible. The PUK *pesh marga* insisted that although their families were in camps in Iran, they had to give up their guns if they crossed the frontier.

The PUK *pesh marga* appeared baffled by their sudden retreat, but not demoralised. Majid Haji Ali, who said he had fought for 17 years, says: "If Barzani is ready to give human rights to everybody, we are crazy people to stay in the mountains." He did not look as if he expected to go home soon.

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Sectarian strife racks Pakistan

Islamabad (Reuters) — Gunmen killed a leader of a militant Shia Muslim group in the Pakistani town of Bahawalpur yesterday hours after 21 Sunni Muslims died in a dawn attack on a mosque in the nearby city of Multan, Shia sources said.

They said two men on a motor-cycle shot Muntaz-ul-Hasan, president of the local branch of the Shia Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan movement, while he was on his way to evening prayers.

The killing appeared to have been a reprisal for the attack on the mosque in Multan, where gunmen burst in to the Masjid Al-Khair mosque just after early-morning prayers. All those killed were Sunni Muslims. Hospital officials said many of the dead were boys aged 10 to 16, from a religious school adjacent to the mosque.

Witnesses said three black cars pulled up to the mosque,

and several men with machine-guns leapt out and opened fire. The gunmen then fled.

Afterwards, Multan's normally bustling streets were deserted as police and paramilitary soldiers patrolled in armoured troop carriers and Jeeps mounted with machine-guns.

By mid-afternoon the army had been deployed. Shia Muslims, fearful of retaliation, were gathering in a nearby mosque, witnesses said. A separate Shia mosque was burned, but there were no injuries. From loud-speakers on both Shia and Sunni mosques, there were calls for people to get their weapons and prepare for a battle.

Earlier this month, in a remote part of north-western Pakistan, a week-long battle left 100 people from both branches of the religion dead, many of them reportedly decapitated and left in mosques.

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Sudan denies bombing Uganda

Sudan denied that its warplanes had bombed northern Uganda and said such claims harmed an agreement to normalise relations signed earlier this month.

The Ugandan Defence Minister, Amama Mbabazi, said earlier that two Sudanese MIG planes on Sunday dropped bombs, aimed at an army barracks in the north-western town of Moyo, 10 miles south of Sudan's border, but which missed their target. "We shall not sit back and watch while our territory continues to be violated. We shall soon respond appropriately," he warned.

Reuter - Khartoum

Simitis vows to change face of Greece

The triumphant socialist Prime Minister Costas Simitis vowed to change the face of Greece and bring the EU's poorest member in line with its partners. Bolstered by a strong election victory on Sunday, he said: "My partners and I have the huge responsibility of leading Greece into the 21st century."

Reuter - Athens

Six killed in rocket attack on Kabul

Rockets hit Kabul killing six people and wounding 22, as Taliban rebels said they had gained ground east of the Afghan capital. Kabul radio said the Taliban militia had sent dozens of rockets into residential areas overnight and during the day. It said six people had been killed and 22 wounded. The Taliban has tightened its grip on eastern provinces this month as part of a drive to seize the capital, to oust President Burhanuddin Rabbani and impose a strict Islamic order.

Reuter - Islamabad

President leads in Armenian poll

The Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossyan's supporters and his main challenger both claimed victory in a presidential election marred by allegations of fraud. The Central Election Commission said the president was leading with 36 per cent of the votes after more than half the ballot papers were counted. His main rival in a field of four, the former prime minister Vazgen Manukyan, had 37 per cent.

Reuter - Yerevan

Actress found hanged

A movie actress popular for her cabaret dances in some 150 movies was found hanged in her house in Madras, southern India, a local news agency reported. "Silk" Smita, 35, had risen rapidly to fame for dances considered risqué by India's film standards.

AP - New Delhi

Congress party has new president

India's Congress party elected the veteran leader Sitaram Kesri as its provisional president to take the place of the former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. Mr Rao resigned on Saturday after a court summons in a criminal conspiracy case.

Reuter - New Delhi

Rat-catchers' heaven

More than a million farmers fanned out across Bangladesh yesterday at the beginning of an annual drive to kill the rats that destroy nearly a third of the country's grain each year. During the month-long drive, anyone who kills more than 10,000 rats will receive a colour television.

AP - Dhaka



Beef stakes: A bullock-cart team taking part in a race bursts through a cloud of turmeric during a Hindu festival in a village outside Bombay

Photograph: Savit Kirlos

Senate poll: Jesse Helms, crusty head of the Foreign Relations Committee, will be hard to oust

Scourge of the world sits tight

RUPERT CORNWELL
Raleigh, North Carolina

Watch Harvey Gantt talk to a group of working mums at the law works childcare centre here, and it's hard to imagine that the hopes of the world are on his shoulders. Courtesy and charm personified, the former mayor of Charlotte is expounding on child tax-credits and kindergarten programmes, making his pitch to be elected Democratic Senator for North Carolina this November.

Mr Gantt happens to be black. But for foreign-policy-makers across the globe, the real question is another: can Mr Gantt this year succeed where he failed in 1990, and defeat Jesse Helms?

Of the Senate contests this year, none will be watched beyond America's borders more closely than this one. Here it will be scrutinised as a pointer to racial and social attitudes in the old South. Abroad, though, only one thing matters: whether at last the US can be rid of the cantankerous chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, scourge of the UN, single-handed delayer of key ambassadorial appointments, and - not to put too fine a point on it - unconstructed xenophobe.

On paper, this should be a tough year for a diehard con-



Jesse Helms: Bane of the UN and of would-be envoys

servative like Mr Helms. At the top of the Republican ticket, Bob Dole is faring so poorly that President Bill Clinton could carry North Carolina. Old scapegoats are gone: the UN and aid-hungry countries in the Third World are pale targets compared to the defunct Soviet Union.

His health has been poor - many were convinced that at the age of almost 75 and after 24 years in the Senate, Mr Helms would retire - and he has an opponent who surely won't make the same mistake twice.

"Harvey Gantt could have

won in 1990, if he'd run a better campaign at the end," said Seth Efron, editor of the state political newsletter the *Insider*. Then of course, he was derailed by a now-legendary advertisement showing a white hand crumpling a job-rejection slip, backing up Mr Helms's charge that he supported race-based job quotas and, only slightly more subtly, reminding voters that Mr Gantt was black. "He made the fatal error over negative ads: you either respond in 24 hours or you're dead," Mr Gantt did not, and Mr Helms in *extremis* turned a deficit into a 53-per-cent victory.

This time he is blending the new with the tried and tested. One ad depicts him with young girls on his knee, cooing about their cuddly, lovable old grandfather Jesse.

Another plays the race card: Harvey Gantt, it notes, is a liberal who supports gay rights and opposes the death penalty. "Does Harvey Gantt fit North Carolina?" Translation: does North Carolina really want a black senator?

There are ads, too, telling of the federal money Mr Helms has brought to the state and of his support for the besieged tobacco industry, which accounts for nearly one in 10 of its jobs. "He's trying to come over as a genial old duffer? who does things for people," said David

Olson, politics professor at North Carolina University. "Meet him and he can be Southern grace personified. But the flip side of Southern grace is Southern viciousness." And Washington's foreign-policy-makers know as well as North Carolina Democrats just how cussed and vicious old Jesse can be when the chips are down.

And in his elections, they usually are. Despite his seniority and celebrity, Mr Helms has never won more than 55 per cent of the vote. State political lore holds that 45 per cent love him, and 45 per cent loathe him. Thus, contests invariably hinge on the remaining 10 per cent, mostly white suburban voters whom, in a pinch, he has always managed to persuade to view him less unfavourably than his opponents.

This time a new ingredient is in the mix, 700,000 new voters registered since 1990, almost nearly two-thirds of whom are independent. Both candidates must woo the centre; so much so that Mr Gantt is doing a fair impersonation of that rediscovered centrist Bill Clinton. Caring, compassionate and a staunch supporter of women's rights, certainly - but also an advocate of targeted tax-cuts, and "old values" like family, discipline, and tougher punishment for violent criminals.

In 1996 Mr Gantt will surely

give as good as he gets, albeit at long range. Mr Helms is refusing debates ("I just don't think the people care about them: it's just a couple of guys standing up there and being nasty to each other.") More important, however, is that North Carolina is more conservative than it was six years ago, a fact which can only favour Mr Helms. Right now the old curmudgeon is leading, according to the Mason-Dixon poll, by 10 points and most expect him to prevail in the end.

Paradoxically, his cause may even be helped by North Carolina's hugely popular Democratic Governor, Jim Hunt, who is crusing to re-election this autumn. "There's a strain of voters here which likes Hunt as Governor," Mr Efron said, "but in the Senate they want someone who'll raise hell, be it over foreigners, the UN, pornography, or gay rights."

Which may be the salvation of Jesse Helms in 1996, but less happy news for the rest of the planet.

Tall lady launches crusade for hearts and homesteads

Austin - On Saturday nights at the Broken Spoke dance hall, a country band picks and yodels through old hits by Hank Williams Sr, Patsy Cline and Bob Wills. Long-neck bottles of Shiner Bock and Lone Star beer are on the tables. Many of the couples dancing the Texas two-step or the cotton-eyed Joe are regulars here; he wears boots, pressed jeans, a western shirt and white hat and she wears boots and a dress with a bouncy skirt.

Their ride home in the family pick-up truck takes them away from urban Austin to the surrounding farms and ranches. When these and other rural Texans think about the forthcoming election of 5 November, they look for candidates who agree with them on the primary issue of property rights.

"Godammit, whose land is his, anyway?" is a common refrain in a state where the sanctity of the "homestead" is so strong that banks are not allowed to offer a loan against the equity in a person's principal residence.

Texans don't think ancestors died at the end of a long fight for independence from Mexico more than 100 years ago for govern-

★ TEXAS TALES

Elaine Davenport charts her state's progress during the run-up to the US elections

farmers and ranchers formed a group called "Take Back Texas", when they felt they were under attack from the federal Endangered Species Act, under which landowners can be forced to preserve habitat for rare plants and animals or face fines. Farmers believe it deprives them of the full use of their land and reduces its value.

Enter Susan Combs, a tall Texan with the power as state representative to respond to their cry. She and other Republicans came up with Senate Bill 14, known as The Takings Bill. It provides for monetary compensation for, or exemption from, a state regulation if the val-

passed in 1995. But it did not address the Federal Endangered Species law, which Republicans also want to overturn.

Texans are paying special attention to the campaign for Congress from the 14th district, which is largely rural and runs south and west from Houston to the outskirts of Austin. Ron Paul is the Republican; Charles "Lefty" Morris the Democrat. Mr Paul, who already has served in Congress as a Republican and was the 1988 Libertarian Party presidential candidate, is gunning on property rights issues, saying it is unconstitutional and immoral to "lose control of one's own land - as long as you don't interfere with your neighbours."

Property rights are important in the election, but even they could be washed by water wars. The region is undergoing the worst drought since the 1950s. Parched fields are yielding no crops and no feed for livestock. Some rain has fallen in recent weeks, but predictions of a long dry spell have riveted attention on water supplies; the race is on to stake out rights. City mayors, county commissioners and state legislators, some of whose jobs are on the line in the 5 November ballot, will be in the forefront of this battle.

pump unlimited water from a big water-holding rock formation, the Edwards Aquifer, which stretches under most of central Texas. And that has focused attention on the fact that San Antonio, about 80 miles south-west of Austin, relies on the aquifer for water for its 1.5 million people. Austin waters its million residents from the Colorado River, which runs through the city.

Drastic population increases in Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and in Williamson County, north of Austin, are forcing cities and water districts to plan ahead. San Antonio is studying ways to run a pipe 100 miles to a point on the Colorado River upstream of Austin. Corpus Christi is planning a 120-mile pipeline to the Colorado River south-east of Austin. The Travis and Williamson County Alliance of Cities, composed of officials from the Austin region, opposes plans to siphon off the Colorado River. They seek a bill to limit the transfer of river water, and which would force towns to prove they are economising.

Issues of land and water are as old as the hills. But they are being contested against the ideologies of individual versus societal rights, of unlimited versus controlled growth or no growth,

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Grand Prior, Order of St John, accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester, attends a concert at Guildhall, London EC2. The Duke of Gloucester visits Montessori St Nicholas' Church, London EC2.

هكذا من الأصل

Clarke's euro-credentials are yet to be tested

Ken Clarke's behaviour is startling. We have such low expectations of politicians these days that, when a Chancellor stakes his power and position on a principle (in this case, keeping the door to European Monetary Union open), we sit up with renewed regard. His bullish behaviour on Europe is doing wonders for his economic credibility too. After all, if the man will not sacrifice his faith in Europe for short-term political gain, presumably he will decline to rock the economy in pursuit of votes, as several of his predecessors did.

But we should interpret Mr Clarke's decisions with care. On both Europe and the economy, the Chancellor is pursuing deliberate and calculated high-risk strategies. His attempt to bounce his party away from destructive Euro-scepticism is admirable. However, he is taking too many chances with the domestic economic outlook. A responsible chancellor, or central bank governor, would put interest rates up now. In fact the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, yesterday advised the Chancellor to do exactly that. Mr Clarke has so far refused.

In the short term he is bound to get away with it. But he is creating the conditions for a boom which we may all regret several years down the line. Admittedly the Chancellor's decision to overrule the Governor last summer by refusing to raise interest rates proved

correct. Thanks to recession in Europe, and firms running down their stocks rather than producing new goods, growth slowed. Had interest rates gone up, we might have suffered a more substantial slowdown.

But it would be foolish to reason by induction. Just because the Chancellor was right once does not mean he is right now. With export markets now expanding, and firms having completed stock adjustments, the need to insure ourselves against a slowdown has eased. More importantly, it looks as though consumer demand is rising disturbingly fast. Retail sales are rising at the fastest rate since 1988. Consumer confidence is up, and so is borrowing. Right now, we are a nation of shoppers.

However, if the economy cannot grow fast enough to keep up, we will find ourselves in the midst of an inflationary boom all over again. Given that investment has remained so sluggish during the recovery, it would be surprising if British business could expand fast enough to match rapid increases in demand. Our previous boom-and-bust record suggests that the British economy is incapable of sustaining high growth without inflation taking off.

Mr Clarke, however, remains optimistic. He cheerily maintains that the economy can pick up speed without inflation rising, and he is choosing his interest rates accordingly. It is always possible that he could prove right, if the

behaviour of the British economy has fundamentally changed in the last five years. If we remain sceptical, it is not least because we have seen economic miracles turn out to be mirages before.

The worst of it is that the Chancellor will be able to get away with his optimism until it is too late. Changes in the economy can be slow to feed through to our perceptions. Time and time again, we find ourselves in the middle of a boom or tumbling into a recession before we know it. This time, voters are understandably reluctant to believe the good times have arrived. Although the economy has been growing steadily

for several years, and consumer spending is accelerating apace, the feelgood factor is still fragile. Inflation is still low, house prices are not yet escalating, and unemployment has not yet fallen to its Eighties nadir.

So when Kenneth Clarke tells us there is plenty of room to manoeuvre, and no need for rate increases to slow the economic expansion, he sounds eminently plausible. The only trouble is that by the time everyone agrees he is wrong it will be too late to do anything about it. Interest rates take two years to have their full impact on the economy. Given that the evidence sug-

gests that inflation will be rising in two years' time, a small rise in interest rates soon, while the boom remains a twinkle in a shopper's eye, could prevent the need for drastic medicine later on.

Sooner or later, should he stay in the job, Mr Clarke is bound to bow to the Bank's advice and put rates up. Faced with overwhelming evidence of inflationary pressures, he should play the good Chancellor and raise the cost of borrowing regardless of the effect on votes. His position is too important to risk his entire reputation as well as the economy on the slim chance of a Conservative victory. The trouble is that political pressures will encourage him to delay as long as possible. The Conservatives will be relying on as large a feelgood deluge as Mr Clarke can ladle up. But with tax cuts no longer a vote-winner, thanks to the dismal state of the public finances and popular cynicism about Norman Lamont's 1992 capers, low interest rates may be the only way of allowing people to feel well off, however temporarily.

Curiously enough, Mr Clarke's economic strategy over the next six months may prove the test of his European principles too. The prospect of a possible inflationary boom in two years may not be appalling enough to make him push up the cost of borrowing. But he is prepared to risk Britain failing the Maastricht criteria and ruling itself out of his precious single currency?

If we do not increase interest rates for the next six months, we could even jeopardise our chances of meeting the Maastricht criterion on inflation by 1999. So if Kenneth Clarke keeps rates too low, we will suspect that his commitment to monetary union is as tempered by political pragmatism as his interest in sustaining economic growth. The next six months will prove whether Ken Clarke is really a good European, as well as a good Chancellor, rather than just a clever politician.

The Tories led by the terraces?

Speaking of Europe, if a big British company was panning for a continental to manage it out of the doldrums, the Eurosceptics would be freaking. Arsène Wenger is by no means the first foreign manager of a top club, and judging by Chelsea's performance on Saturday under Ruud Gullit's baton, such imports do not guarantee success. Still, it makes a wonderfully internationalist spectacle, all those north Londoners aching for Mr Wenger's arrival – as do the polyglot teams we now field each week. The national game is on its way to multi-ethnicity. If the lads on the terraces can open their minds to abroad, what about the lads on the Tory backbenches?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The nations of Europe can't survive alone

Sir: It would help to promote a greater understanding of the Euro-sceptic case (Letters, 20 September) if they would set out their constructive proposals against the following background.

Most major industrial companies in the UK strongly support the European Union and many of them support the single currency. Europe accounts for some 30 per cent of world trade and has to operate with 14 different currencies. The United States, although only accounting for 20 per cent of world trade, has the advantage of the US dollar being used in 40 per cent of world trade. The US, Japan and China, with their large populations, each have a single currency and thus no foreign exchange costs within their own borders.

World trade is increasingly concentrated in a number of regional blocs and it is with these that Europe must compete in the coming decades.

The future of the UK and the European Union in world trading depends critically on its expertise in high-technology manufacturing. This demands the highest possible skill levels, more investment and, above all, well-directed research and development. The swinging cost of the latter is forcing more and more companies, which do not yet have a full European dimension in R&D, to link up with other companies.

The financial markets are assuming that the UK will not be in "a single currency and believe that our own we would be able to control inflation not to maintain a strong currency. This has led to long-term interest rates in the UK being some 2 per cent above those in Germany.

The real question, I submit, is how can any European country survive on its own in the 21st century? The anti-Europeans owe us all an answer.

CHAROLD ATCHERLEY
Chairman, Suffolk and North Essex Branch, European Movement
Long Melford, Suffolk

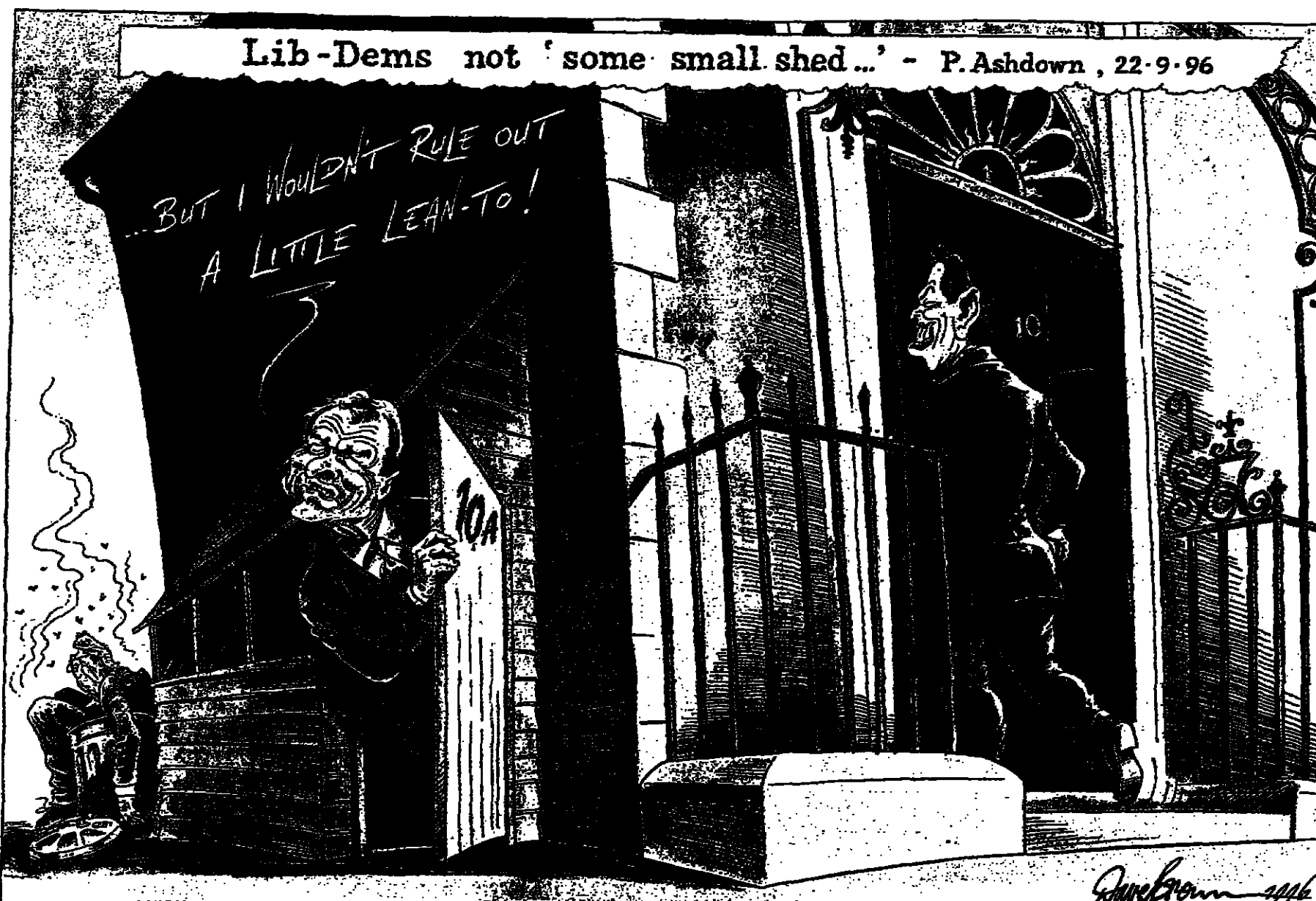
Sir: Your leader (19 September) asserts: "There is nothing the Euro-sceptics would like better than that the EU should be split into a federalising inner core and an outer circle of 'free-trading' states." That is untrue.

As far back as January 1991, in a paper on European policy, I wrote: "A two-tier or two-speed Europe is a most unattractive idea – we would be marginalised, lose authority and involvement and would not catch up."

One of my main objections to Maastricht was that the Government failed to veto the disastrous plan for EMU and instead simply opted out – thus creating the two-tier Community in those outer circle we now denigrate. The only way to remedy this is to insist that EMU be put on the agenda at the Inter-Governmental Conference.

Such a debate would address the very serious unresolved democratic issues at stake which you rightly mention in your leading article, and the question of the only process of EMU, which is threatening to divide the Malcolm Rifkind rightly in Zurich.

David Heath and his (19 September) doubt, describe any action of EMU and



betrayal of our national interests". Yet it was their generation which was responsible for the White Paper of 1971, which said: "There is no question of any erosion of essential national sovereignty."

Do they now repudiate this statement? I have put this very question to Sir Edward in the House of Commons and received no reply. Nothing could be a greater betrayal, not only of the trust of the British people but of the national interest, than to allow Maastricht's plan for further integration to continue to divide the Community and undermine the national parliaments, which are the basis of European democracy.

BILL CASH MP
(Stafford, Con)
London SW1

Sir: Professor Bush's assertion that the Euro-sceptics "are Churchill's true inheritors" (Letters, 21 September) is as unequivocally wrong as John Redwood's claim that Churchill wished only to belong to a Union of the English-Speaking Peoples.

Both choose to ignore his dramatic offer to France in 1940 that "there shall no longer be two nations, but one Franco-British Union". (See *The Community of Europe* by D W Urwin, Longman 1991). The offer was not just based on the rhetoric of wartime but backed with detailed study of "economic... political and military co-operation".

Later, some of those involved in the study of a Franco-British Union were instrumental in developing the supranational institutions that today make up the European Union.

Sir: The extract from Winston Churchill's speech referred to by Professor Bush (Letters, 21 September) is worth quoting in full. In May 1953, Churchill said: "We are with Europe but not of it. We are linked but not comprised. We are associated but not absorbed. And should any European statesman address us and say, 'Shall we speak for thee?' we should reply, 'Nay, Sir, for we live among our own people.'"

Throughout his speeches, Churchill made it clear that he wanted a United States of Europe with Britain watching over it from the outside. He had no intention of deserting the Commonwealth.

BRYAN SMALLEY
Much Hadham, Hertfordshire

Sir: Once again the Tory right intone their mantra of the European "democratic deficit" ("Grandees are just dinosaurs, snarls Tory right", 20 September). Brussels may be bureaucratic and unwieldy. But what about this Tory government's own democratic deficit? Whitehall is not only bureaucratic but incompetent. Power has been centralised in and veiled behind appointed quangos.

The electorate, especially the young, are increasingly apathetic about voting and the stock of MPs is in free fall. Is the Tory right really interested in remedying the democratic deficits, or are they in fact just worried about power being transferred out of their own grubby hands into someone else's?

N D MARTIN-CLARK
London WC1

British clothes losing unfairly

Sir: There is another dimension to the decline of employment within the clothing industry ("Job fears amid radical shake-up", 11 September). Less than 30 years ago the numbers employed were 1.5 million, whereas today it is 400,000 and heading downwards rapidly. Today we can no longer produce the clothes we wish to wear and the result is a balance of trade deficit even bigger than foods at some £60m – by far and away the biggest trade deficit for any product group including cars and electrical goods.

The textile industry is now high-tech in spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing, as are the clothing factories, due to sophisticated computer equipment. UK suppliers of such machinery, together with the employment they gave, have also declined, which with the car industry problems of the last 25 years has contributed to the general decline of the engineering industry.

All this of course must be taken in the context of the UK's genuine free trading policies over many years. Since most of the low-cost producer countries do not have reciprocal free trading agreements, the UK's attitude leaves us in a very weak position. Another 50,000 jobs may not seem much to you, but you would make a big fuss if it was happening in your own industry.

SIR RICHARD GREENBURY
London W1
The writer is chairman of Marks & Spencer plc

All clear after raids on Iraq

Sir: I am enlightened. The latest US bombing of Iraq, in the absence of a UN mandate, has answered many questions and clarified a few points about the five-year conflict.

1. If the Iraqis bomb the Kurds above the 36th parallel, it becomes imperative to bomb them in return, both at the site of fighting and everywhere else.

2. If the Iraqis bomb the Kurds below that parallel, no further action is necessary. This is not to intervene in the domestic problems of a sovereign nation.

3. If the Turks bomb the Kurds in Turkey or in Iraq, it is imperative to ignore the issue – quickly.

4. If the Kurds bomb each other, it is of no importance.

Therefore, Kuwait remains democratic, the oil flows freely at a cheaper rate and the Americans have a stronghold in the Arabian desert.

Why is it that nobody is happy? **YOUSSEF SHARAIHA FRCS**
Llanelli

While it is true that the 1979 civil legislation is rarely invoked, the courts no longer separate physical punishment from child abuse or assault and battery. They therefore invariably go directly to the penal code on assault and battery.

We are advised by Swedish lawyers that the legislation has in this way "resulted in hundreds of normal parents being harassed by the social authorities and prosecuted in the courts, sentenced and thus made criminals because they have smacked their unruly children".

ANNE DAVIS
Families for Discipline
Frinton-on-Sea, Essex

Hidden costs of intensive farms

Sir: Replies to Prince Charles's call for more natural sustainable farming methods ("BSE is an offence against God", says Prince Charles, 20 September) repeatedly claim that food produced intensively is cheap.

However, it is not cheap when the hidden costs of factory farming are taken into account – for instance, the cost of removing pesticides from the water supply. There is the cost of compensating farmers with taxpayers' money after food crises such as salmonella and BSE.

Most government subsidies go to intensive farming, with only a tiny fraction to help natural organic farming. When all is taken into account, chemical farming is not cheap at all.

A JURY 1 C

Two wheels no laughing matter

Sir: What a shame that your article "Ashdown's Angels want a two-wheel nation" (21 September) chose to make light of a serious attempt to promote two-wheeled transport as part of a solution to free our grid-locked city centres.

Two wheels doesn't just mean big, powerful motorcycles – in this context, the emphasis should be on motorised bicycles, mopeds, scooters and low-capacity commuters. The tiny amount of fuel used is dedicated to transporting only their riders, rather than several hundredweight of metal and plastics. Ride a 50cc scooter anywhere in London and you'll get to your destination in, on average, a quarter of the time.

Furthermore, the accident figures you quote are misleading – of course you are more vulnerable than in a huge metal box, and nothing can change that. However, better training and awareness have lowered the number of accidents involving two-wheelers and, crucially, you failed to mention that the vast majority of such accidents are caused by cars.

Besides, it's hard to suppress a smile when you realise that you only need to fill up once a month instead of every few days.

DICK POWELL
London W14

Proper nursery care is fine

Sir: I am very sorry that the conclusions of our study concerning early group care have been somewhat misunderstood ("How nursery breeds bad behaviour", 13 September).

This might give rise to unjustified anxiety in some mothers who use good day-care centres for their babies, and to a deprecation of the work of many excellent caregivers. Moreover, while our findings agree with the results of some researches conducted in the USA, they disagree with other studies conducted in Europe.

In particular, we stressed in our paper that some undesirable outcomes of early group care seems to occur for some children who spend too much time (eight or more hours per day) in the centre, who start group care in the first or early in the second year and who are emotionally more weak.

When there is not an abuse of day care, when its quality is good and parents are able to establish warm relationships with their children coming back home, positive outcomes may be found. Both my son and my grandchild attended a good day care centre, and have grown well.

DARIO VARIN
Professor of Developmental Psychology
State University of Milan

Logical benefit

Sir: There is an arguable but politically unpopular logic to replacing the current child benefit system with a means-tested benefit payable only to mothers on lower incomes: there is no logic to a partial replacement ("Labour drops over-16 benefit", 21 September).

As most parents of older children would confirm, the cost of looking after teenagers increases exponentially with age. My vote will go to the political party that

essay

After sampling the Globe theatre's experimental season Victoria McKee finds that there's not much of use to be learned about Shakespeare just from staging his plays in a theme park playhouse



The Paul Smith-style linen suits in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* graced against the elaborate Elizabethan-style painted arras

How does our play please you?

Tis here, but yet confused", (*Othello*, Act II scene 1) would be a charitable epilogue to the "prologue season" of the pseudo-Elizabethan theatre on the banks of the Thames known as Shakespeare's Globe. Since the three-week season ended on 15 September, the Globe's artistic directorate has been pondering and pontificating, and today architects and academics will be meeting to analyse the lessons of that season, with a full board debriefing scheduled for next Monday.

"O brave new world" – of insights into Elizabethan drama – or just a very "wooden O"? That is the question: whether it will prove nobler than a theme theatre, where tourists on tight itineraries can pack in some Shakespeare in a suitably old-world setting without having to make the time-consuming trip to Stratford.

Let's forget the building, which has already been off-martelved at. It is admirably fashioned of solid English oak and a lime and goat-hair plaster that will contract and settle with it, and is as splendid as anything can be that has been designed by a committee. (Our eyes would probably prefer the stage area to be plain timbered like the rest of the theatre, but the committee of academics who suggested the garish gilding, faux marble pillars and figurative reliefs insist it's more accurate and, worse still, are planning to spoil the simplicity of the rest.)

What will we learn from the building about the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries that is unique? Actors seem more charitably disposed to the project so far than leading academics, and Shakespeare did caution against making the judicious gripe ("the censure of the which one must, in your allowance, outweigh a whole theatre of others").

Professor Andrew Gurr, an expert on the Elizabethan stage who is chairman of the Globe's "academic committee" feels that "we've learnt more about what *shouldn't* be done than what *should*", and can give good reasons why. "The unadventurous production [of the prologue season], the fact that it was staged as if for a procession theatre, the incongruity of the modern costuming... his list goes – justifiably – on and on. But the actor/director Julian Glover, on the artistic directorate, counters: "The general mood was very positive, and we came away with an absolute commitment to open officially next year with a proper season. Personally, I've got a *lust* to work in it!"

Undoubtedly, the construction of what will become the "International Shakespeare Globe Centre" has fulfilled the promise of the film *Field of Dreams*: "If you build it, they will come." Audiences have been large and enthusiastic and

many performances have sold out. The average was 96 per cent capacity over the run of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, which wouldn't be the greatest draw even with an all-star cast (which this fledgling-Globe company isn't) or the pulling power of the Royal Shakespeare Company behind it. "Two Gentlemen is the slightest of Shakespeare's plays," says the Shakespeare scholar Professor Stanley Wells, director of the University of Birmingham at Stratford and a director of the Globe. Like me, Dr Wells was not unduly impressed either by the choice of play or the performance. "It's a pity that they didn't attempt a Globe play," Dr Wells says. "Two Gentlemen" is personally think, was Shakespeare's first play, written in 1588 for a less sophisticated theatre than the Globe.

What should have been the "two-hours" traffic of the stage lasted for three because so much acting was done between lines rather than on them, and so many unnecessary tables and chairs were lugged about. As the American professor J.L. Styan pointed out in his seminal book on Shakespeare's *Stagecraft*, Shakespeare's plays were written to rely on "word-scenery" and "the visualising power of language" – which is what those using this new space should explore. Indeed, in the hilarious "rude mechanicals" rehearsal in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare mocks those who think they

have to have realistic walls or moonshine.

The cappuccino cups and café tables, like the Paul Smith-style linen suits and Lycra jogging gear, might have been fine on a bare stage but grated against the elaborate Elizabethan-style painted arras and the red marbled, gold-topped Corinthian columns. Why go to all the trouble of creating such a period piece and then not be true to period?

The wonderful thing about Shakespeare as it was originally performed is, as Professor Styan puts it, that the stage could be "as empty or as full, as anchored or as shifting, as particular or as anonymous, as our fancies make it." That is what we should be seeing at the Globe – *sans* production, set, lighting or costume designers to come between the effect and it. Then we could explore how Shakespeare controlled his audience through the tragicomic-historical-pastoral transitions in his plays and the positioning of actors – and why certain entrances and exits work the way they do.

When there wasn't an interval (as there is, alas, at the new Globe), it was even more crucial to vary the pace, alternating crowd scenes with intensely personal ones, serious with comic. With no intervals audiences would, undoubtedly, have visited the orange-sellers or the cresspits or hailed friends during bits that bored them.

I sat through three performances from different vantage points: as a £5 standing "groundling" and a £16 posh

nob in the middle gallery, and with a £12 unreserved seat, and found the most interesting part of the show the audience. There was someone following the text in Japanese at virtually every performance. Americans with Harrods carrier bags and British blue stockings letting their children stay up late to savour the experience.

The Globe's chief executive, Michael Holden, has warned that if any "Globe groupie", as Professor Wells calls them, turns up in Elizabethan costume they will be ejected from the theatre. The theatre's education officer, Patrick Spottiswoode, running an ambitious year-round programme, agrees. "That would be really naïf. We don't want people to time-travel in the Globe. We want a real response."

How to make the response different from that of a pantomime is a challenge to which both actors and audiences at the Globe still have to rise. Shakespeare's audience "was not there to counterfeits its participation in the play, like that watching a Victorian melodrama. It was caught up in an act of creative collaboration," Professor Styan noted. Things have been too self-conscious at the Globe so far.

"If this is just going to be another theatre space, then we probably don't need it," sighed Dr Wells as he left his backless bench with obvious relief. "I can't say I felt any illumination from this."

"To thine own self be true," Shakespeare advised, "and it shall follow as the night the day

thou canst not then be false to any man." This theatre does not yet know how to be true to its own self. And why should it? It is a project that grew out of an American tourist's mistaken belief that Shakespeare's Globe Theatre still existed in Bankside, and his determination to make his dream come true. That he was the popular actor Sam Wanamaker makes it a good story, that he died before it was completed makes it a poignant one, but is it like a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing?

Professor Wells thinks it might be. "It could be a great mistake to think that this was an ideal space to play. It may not have been! What works may not necessarily be authentic, and what is authentic may not work for us." Shakespeare probably *longed* for a stage without pillars to hamper the sightlines.

Yet it was undeniably intriguing to peer up over what is claimed to be the first thatching to be done in London since the Great Fire of 1666 at giant cranes, jet planes, and the tower of the Bankside Power Station which, when it becomes a new Tate Gallery in 1999, should further make the area a Mecca for cultural tourists.

Whereas for some performances of *Two Gentlemen* there was room to stroll about, sit on a shooting stick, bounce a baby in a sling or smooch with a lover, for the one-off performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Northern Broadsides (on September 3) the

groundlings were so thickly packed they could only exercise their mouths and hands to cheer and clap.

The Northern Broadsides production was perhaps truest to the flavour of what Elizabethan theatre might have been like. The provincial company acknowledged that it had just flown in from Brasilia (as arduous a journey as coming down from Stratford would have been in the 16th century) and their costumes had been lost en route. Having thus won the audience's sympathy, they proceeded to put on a stout and spirited rendition of the *Dream* which did not depend on costumes, scenery, sound or lighting effects for its immediate impact.

Perhaps the Globe would work better as a much-needed London venue for travelling players accustomed, like Northern Broadsides and the players of Shakespeare's time, to touring cattle markets and cider houses. But it must be remembered that Shakespeare's plays were also performed to refined audiences in the elite private theatres. Julian Glover, who watched the *Dream* from all vantage points, thought that "there was too much shouting in this production, and shouting is not the answer."

So what is? No one seems to know. "I don't think we've got there yet," Glover admits. "The theatre has not yet been used as it was meant to be."

It is true, tis pity, and pity tis true that no one seems able yet to use the awkward space effectively. But why should we, when today we have the technology to build a stage like this without the two huge pillars that get in everybody's way? The pillars have been a curse, and have already moved several times, to several different positions, as nobody is quite sure where they would originally have been. In Johannes de Witt's 1596 sketch of the Swan Theatre, the pillars are further upstage.

When the Globe's stage is finally set in oak – the current one is a mock-up of plywood and plaster which can still be altered – there should be seats on the on-stage balcony, as there were in Shakespeare's time, as well as in the "gentlemen's boxes" at the sides of the stage.

"We're not saying, 'This is the way' – we're trying to offer another way," says Mr Spottiswoode. "We're going to be trying all sorts of things, and will certainly be doing productions in Elizabethan dress – maybe some with men playing the women's parts as they would have – as well as modern dress ones."

So if the Globe's first tentative reveals have offended, think but this and all is mended. And remember that this is the realisation of a dream for which no concrete blueprints exist – as the original theatre site is submerged forever beneath London's first, listed, concrete building.

The author is a Shakespeare scholar who writes on contemporary interpretations of Elizabethan theatre.

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For a cricket lover:

The Village Cricket Tour will give hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat". "I enjoyed it immensely" wrote Peter Tinswood in *Punch*. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will amuse and warm the cockles of tired hearts." "Coleman is a very funny writer," said *The Independent*. "It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." "Sentinel reading includes de Selincourt and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whimsical piece about the puerilities of a village cricket team on its summer tour," said *The Cricketer* magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and reminiscences and a travelogue of some of the most picturesque spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

For a golf lover:

Anyone who likes golf will love *The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course*. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Duffield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club – fairways, bunkers, clubhouse and all. There's one snag to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's light and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the *Sunday Independent*. "Very readable" said *Golf World*. "Highly enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the *Evening Chronicle*. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the *Evening Telegraph*. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of after shave.

For a cat lover:

Feline fans will love *Alice's Diary* which tells of a year in the life of a mixed tabby cat. Alice shows us, with great humour and insight, what it is really like to be a cat. Our files are bursting with letters from readers who love this book. "What a wonderful book, so beautifully written, it was a great pleasure to read" wrote Mrs V. of Essex. "Please send copies of *Alice's Diary* to the eleven friends on the accompanying list. It is a wonderful book which will give them all great pleasure," wrote Mr R. of Lancashire. *Alice's Diary* is delightfully illustrated throughout. But we warn you: when you see it you may not want to give it away! An absolute must for all cat and animal lovers. Guaranteed to give more joy and laughter than almost any other present you can choose.

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Over half a million readers have already discovered the joys of Vernon Coleman's series of novels based in and around the fictional Devon village of Billbury. These novels are in the tradition of the very best of English writing – full of gentle humour, anecdotes and colourful characters – just the thing for relaxing and unwinding. These are stories of a time and a place where no one needed to lock their doors. If you enjoy a good book and you enjoy the country then you'll love reading *The Billbury Chronicles*.

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"Vernon Coleman writes brilliant books"
The Good Book Guide

Some things are simply beyond words...



Miles Kington

I'm afraid our grasp of vocabulary is still not nearly as good as it should be – only this morning I heard a politician on the *Today* programme say "refute" when he meant "rebut", a mistake I have heard on that programme every day of my life – so I have brought our ever-popular lexicologist Dr Wordsmith back again to help out with all your queries on the meaning of words. All yours, Doc!

always obey folk wisdom and put some boiling water in the empty pot to warm it up. Sometimes, though, I forget the water is in there, and without pouring it out first I put a couple of spoonfuls of tea leaves into what I think is an empty pot but which now contains tepid water! Which is very annoying, as you have to pour it out and start all over again! But I just wanted to know if there was a word for this, presumably very common, error.

Dr Wordsmith writes: You'd think there would be, wouldn't you? But as far as I can make out, there isn't.

Have you ever noticed that when you are cutting a large piece of paper with scissors, something odd often happens and the scissors start cutting without being moved? You are happily snipping across an expanse of newspaper or wrapping paper and suddenly you realise that although you have ceased to manipulate the handles of the scissors, the blades are still moving through the paper and cutting with the sheer pressure of the blades, or

your hands on the scissors. It's almost as if the blades are surfing through the paper. Is there any word to describe this sort of cutting?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Yes, I have often noticed that but never thought about it before. No, as far as I know, no word has ever been coined to describe the phenomenon.

We very often know when an electric light bulb is about to expire because it starts flickering very rapidly as if on the point of burning out. (Oddly enough, a bulb can keep up this flickering activity for several days, keeping you on perpetual tenterhooks.) It's not exactly flickering, more a sort of electrical equivalent of stammering, or a very rapid turning on and off of a light. I just wanted to know if electricians have a term to describe this, because very often I have wanted to say to my wife: "Oh, look, that bulb must be on the verge of needing replacement because it's started to... to..." and then I can never think of the word. Is there in

Dr Wordsmith writes: Not so far as I know.

When you're peeling an apple or a potato, and the peel comes off not in little bits but one long continuous strip which can sometimes measure a foot or more in length, is there a word to describe that long length of peel?

Dr Wordsmith writes: No. At least, I think not.

Sometimes when we yawn it makes a very loud noise and sometimes it is totally silent. Does the English language have a pair of words that usefully distinguish between the two?

Dr Wordsmith writes: If it ever did, it does not now.

For my sins, I sometimes have to attend posh dinners where there is an after-dinner speaker. This speaker, who is always referred to as the special guest even though he is being paid to be there, is usually introduced by another speaker who knows nothing about the guest except what he has gleaned from *Who's Who*.

In addition, this "introducer", as I suppose we

introduced by someone else before him who gets up and says, "I now call upon Mr Joe Grimley, whom we all know, to introduce the guest speaker..." and Grimley gets up and says that it gives him great pleasure to introduce a man or a woman he hadn't even heard of until two days ago, and even then it isn't finished because after the speech, a man gets up to thank the guest speaker, a man who is so nervous about doing this that he hasn't even listened to the speech...

Dr Wordsmith writes: I am sorry to interrupt, but there is a question coming out of all this?

Yes, I just wanted to know if there is a technical name for the process of seating dinner guests alternately male and female all round a dinner table?

Dr Wordsmith writes: I am not sure, but I don't think so.

Is there some aspect of vocabulary that I have bothered and bothered and just drop a line

كلنا من الواصل

When Ikea sells women's lib, it's time to move on

What the modern woman needs is obviously not feminism but furniture. I know this because I have been transfixed by the Ikea ad with its revolutionary slogan, "Chuck out the Chintz". All these years we've been worried about trivia such as equal pay and domestic violence when all the time liberation was lurking in a bit of flat-pack furniture.

As the ad makes crystal clear radical reading no longer means Mrs Pankhurst but the Ikea catalogue. The ad by the groovy agency St Lukes features a protest song, "We're battling hard and we've come a long way, in choices and status, in jobs and in pay," which is sung while women of all descriptions throw out their flowery bedspreads, Victorian lampshades and old sofas on to skips. Revolution burns along this street with women marching arm in arm spreading the message.

Free of these dreadful symbols of oppression, these newly freed women can recline in their stripped-down homes full of maple flooring and tasteful prints.

Using the language of political revolution to sell us products is nothing new. Liberation, freedom and revolution have been sold to us via cars and bras, cigars and sanitary towels. Ikea only makes this process more blatant, borrowing its narrative thrust entirely from some Seventies idea of women's liberation.

For those in the know the whole thing may simply be another example of Seventies retro: for the rest of us it is merely irritating. The women troop down the street in all their GLC-type diversity demanding change, throwing out the old and unpacking the new. Men are entirely absent and when the new homes are unveiled they are full of women communicating intensely in their modern little habitats. Though these women may be waking up to their new found power they are not interested in recycling – that old Victoriana goes straight out the window. Planned obsolescence is the order of the day. Having seen the rose-tinted light of Scandinavian Modernism they see the error of their ways: "That sofa's so girly, so silly and twirly."

What the ad connects up so cleverly is both the perception that female taste is innately prissy and anti-modern with the idea that feminism has achieved its aims and is therefore irrelevant except as a lifestyle accessory. Women clearly have to be coaxed into the hard and minimal lines of modern living, which is just too brutal. Ikea with its softened version of Modernist design it well placed to do it. That the Ikea catalogue gets more chintzy year by year, or that we replace the faux-natural chintz of Victoriana with ethnic artefacts or still secretly aspire to country living is neither



Suzanne Moore

Chintz is too girly, says the furniture retailer. But it's also telling us that feminism is nothing more than a lifestyle accessory

here nor there. If women are achieving more, then their homes should, it seems, reflect a more masculinist notion of design. As a nation we do not have good taste. Or not as the design fascists would classify it. A visit to the Ideal Home exhibition will confirm that most people's ideal home has little to do with space and light but everything to do with plump cushions and pot pourri.

Social aspiration means, however, that we understand the way we should live even if we can't quite manage it. Minimalism requires maximum resources and control. Minimalism is problematic if you have messy children around, if you have any possessions at all, if you don't have a cleaner and if you have to live in just the one house.

Maybe that is why in the past Ikea has flirted with gay men as the shock troops of style that will eventually filter down to the general population. Its ad featuring Steve and Ben buying a table as, and I kid you not, "a sign of commitment", again managed to reduce sexual politics to pure consumerism, something that the gay community has done quite successfully for itself anyway.

Feminism is harder to pin down as sheer lifestyle. This ad wants us to believe in some Seventies notion of women's liberation even though, with a nod and a wink, it assumes that we belong to a post-feminist era. We have, it appears, achieved most of what there was to achieve and now that we know that interior décor reveals our very soul we must strip away the signs of old-style femininity. The discourse of purity did at one time occupy a central place in feminism; natural women wore no make-up, kept themselves hairy and wore natural fibres. Decoration and artifice were male constructs to keep us

oppressed. Now, apparently, so were pelmets and pretty little bedside lamps.

Now we are positively dripping with irony, kitsch and sex. We don't want chintz. We want tack. We also like our homes to look different from our grey, functional workplaces.

It is more difficult to define feminism these days because it is nomadic. The days of women's libbers marching around making demands are conjured up in this ad as ancient history. And they are. Yet if the problem with feminism was that it couldn't sell itself to "ordinary women", how come it is being used to sell them wardrobes? Perhaps the difference is that feminism still makes a lot of people uncomfortable by pointing out what is wrong with men. Ikea is the only institution that I can think of that makes us realise that there is something right with them. They are the only ones who can put those damn flat-packs together. But believe me girls, if liberation has come to this, you had better chuck it out.

Honest Paddy must tread carefully

By Donald Macintyre

Enter today Honest Paddy, the Politician who Tells the Truth. In his leadership speech in Brighton this afternoon, Ashdown will stake a claim to be the one party leader prepared to elevate the coming electoral debate above the timid evasions of the two big parties.

This is an ambitious claim but by no means a baseless one. He has the distinction of being the only party leader prepared to declare his hand on monetary union, the issue that will dominate the first half of the next Parliament.

The Liberal Democrats alone have been bold and long-termist enough to grapple with the environment – which will revive as an issue – and propose the levying of carbon taxes to pay for a job-stimulating reduction in employers' national insurance contributions.

On economic policy, Ashdown is the cuckoo in the nest, unique and not just in Britain, in being brave enough to challenge the assumption that no Anglo-Saxon electorate will vote for higher taxes. It isn't merely that he is prepared to contemplate a one penny in the pound increase in income tax to fund an extra £2bn on education. By continuing to emphasise the menacing levels of public debt, as their economic spokesman Malcolm Bruce did yesterday, the Liberal Democrats will rightly be a continual irritant to their rivals, underlining the fragility of their relentless commitment to cut taxes rather than raise them.

You don't have to agree with each individual policy to be profoundly grateful that someone is prepared to break the conspiracy of silence on much of what will matter most after polling day. But we shouldn't get carried away either. There is also quite a lot Ashdown will not be saying this afternoon.

There is, first, a minor quibble about the economic programme launched yesterday. Most of it – including its anti-pollution measures – is fiscally neutral. But because of the £2bn extra to be spent on education, it involves as a whole a modest increase in public spending. Nothing wrong with that. Yet at the weekend, in a tentative rightward tilt of the helm, Ashdown said that he wanted to bring public expenditure down to under 40 per cent of national income. Ashdown will make quite a lot today of the desirability of inter-party consensus to get through a programme of



Ashdown is making some bold moves, but his party may not yet be prepared to follow him all the way

wholesale welfare reform. But until he, no less than Tony Blair, is prepared to say what he has in mind, his state shrinking agenda sits a little uneasily with the programme on which he intends to fight the election.

Much more fundamental, however, is the party leader's reluctance about the consuming question of power and how to get it. On Sunday Alex Carlisle suggested that the Liberal Democrats and Labour were moving closer together and that if offered seats in a Blair Cabinet his party should take them – a conclusion hand-

somely endorsed in the poll we reported yesterday.

Swiftly the party response comes back: Alex is a great chap but of course he's standing down. A bit demob-happy, you know. But that isn't so surprising since the sub-text of Alex Carlisle's remarks is that the offer might arise even in conditions where Tony Blair, busily reasserting his Liberal antecedents, is not merely forced into coalition by a hung Parliament.

There is nobody who underestimates the difficulties – not least the need first for Blair to

commit himself to electoral reform, second to sell it to a party who haven't waited 17 years to win power and then voluntarily share it with another party. But equally, few senior politicians in either party will rule out in private the prospect that as a bulwark against his own left wing, Tony Blair will invite Ashdown. Menzies Campbell, and perhaps a couple of others to join the Cabinet as part of a comprehensive deal even if he has a majority of – say – around 25. Carlisle is saying in public what many senior Lib Dems, Ashdown

included, have contemplated in private.

But Ashdown can't quite put it that way today, any more than he can elevate into a national principle the technique his increasingly effective party machine is applying in around 50 target seats – almost all of them Tory held.

The local election results in 1995 and 1996 suggest a remarkable increase in tactical voting – or intelligent voting, to use Ashdown's own preferred term. A recent study of neighbouring wards in Basildon – admittedly at the peak of the Tories' unpopularity – suggest that across quite a wide area voters uniformly backed the Liberal Democrats or Labour simply according to which candidate was the likelier to win. The campaign in Liberal Democrat target seats consists in persuading increasingly sophisticated Labour supporters that their only chance of unseating the Tory is to vote Liberal Democrat.

Unable yet to reform the electoral system, the party is seeking to beat it. What's more, every twitch of the electoral beast since 1992 suggests an increasing willingness to be tactical. But to encourage the process by launching a national crusade in its favour risks reducing the party's overall share of the vote – and with it the most potent demonstration of the unfairness of the first-past-the-post system.

These contradictions should not be misunderstood. Ashdown's decision to end the formal neutrality between the two parties and promise not to sustain a Tory government was in its own terms as bold as Blair's to replace Clause IV. But there are limits to how far his party is yet prepared to follow him.

In councils across the country something odd is certainly happening: middle-class, golf-playing Liberal Democrat professional women are co-operating with diarch Labour trade unionists in running council after council. And more and more of those councillors, frustrated with the limits of local authority power, are now seeking parliamentary candidacies. The gibe about the Liberal Democrats being content to be the party of local government is less valid than it was. But Ashdown will have to tread carefully today. Carlisle is right. Ashdown and Blair want co-operation if they can get it. But Ashdown's caution today will be a reminder of the difficulties the rank and file of both parties could yet put in their leaders' way.

OUR SERIES ON THE PEOPLE JOCKEYING FOR INFLUENCE IN THE LATE NINETIES

Led by a barrister who is married to a QC and surrounded and bolstered by friends in the profession, new Labour is to a striking degree a party of lawyers. And now, after nearly 20 years of patient waiting, the ranks of Labour supporters within the profession are dusting off their membership cards (or quietly renewing their subscriptions) and hoping for their due reward. Membership of the Society of Labour Lawyers has shot up to 800 in the past year, an increase of two-thirds. The Tudorbethan semis that line the leafy streets of Hampstead Garden Suburb in north-west London, where much of the Labour legal intelligentsia reside, are fairly buzzing with expectation.

Labour lawyers kept their heads down during the dark days of the early Eighties, when they might have been tempted by the SDP. Nowadays, when the tendency is more to keep one's mouth shut than to jump ship, there may be wry jokes at meetings about finishing before Jack Straw's curfew takes effect, and there are genuine anxieties about the direction of new Labour. But with some noteworthy exceptions (Michael Mansfield QC, Sir Stephen Sedley, a High Court judge who has never seen any reason to disavow Communism), Tony Blair could not hope for a more loyal band.

Their hopes may be vague: a place in the Lords, membership of the proposed Judicial Appointments Commission. Their keenness stems from their belief that Labour-sympathising lawyers have a special voice, and one that ought to be heard. At the pinnacle of expectation will stand Lord "Derry" Irvine, the QC with whom Blair served his barrister's pupillage. As the man most likely to be the next Lord Chancellor, Irvine may reasonably expect that he will finally cast off his role as behind-the-scenes confidant and adviser. At least until Labour reforms the system, he will instead wield enormous power and patronage by recommending the appointments of the country's top judiciary and QCs, and will be handed the right – without having worked his way up through the ranks of the profession – not only to sit in but also to preside over the country's final court of appeal, the House of Lords.



THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT
Day seven:

Lawyers
New Labour is awash with lawyers, all waiting for their rewards
By Patricia Wynn Davies

Recognition of some sort, in the upper House, on the bench or elsewhere, could go to the likes of Eldred Tabachnick QC, Irvine's number two in his 11 King's Bench Walk chambers and President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; and James Goudie QC, the number three in the chambers, who has chaired the Society of Labour Lawyers for the past two years, and represented Labour in the legal challenge

to women-only short lists. Others with impeccable credentials include Henry Hodge, former Law Society high-flier and now deputy chairman of the Legal Aid Board, whose wife Margaret, the MP for Barking, is in the vanguard of the ultra-Blairites; and Charles Falconer QC, a close friend of Mr Blair who advised him on the legal aspects of the Scott affair.

Debts of gratitude that Mr Blair must hope to be able to repay go back to the very beginning of his political career. Maggie Rae, a close friend of Cherie Blair and a solicitor with Mishcon de Reya, where the Labour peer Lord Mishcon still acts as consultant, could be one. A former Communist, she, with her husband Alan Haworth, the secretary of the Parliamentary Labour Party, was in the forefront of opposition to the hard left in east London, where Mr Blair took his first step as a councillor.

Another Mishcon partner, Anthony Julius, has already thrust himself into the public eye by representing Princess Diana in the divorce court. When that case was finished, he joked that now people would soon forget about him. If Blair gets in, we may learn about him all over again.

There is no possibility of Blair executing a clean sweep-out of Tory appointees: he will have no choice but to inherit some of the existing players – the independent-minded Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, for example. Neither of these can be dislodged on a political whim. In fact some lawyers, Labour supporters among them, say that that is a very good thing, given the self-confessed judicial conservatism of Lord Irvine.

Not all of Labour's traditional supporters within the profession stand to benefit if Blair wins: the radical ramp are destined never to join the new order. As they see it, they have devoted their lives to fighting the anti-intellectualism of their own profession and to developing a culture based on rights, only to be faced with the dumping of socialism. But among the far greater number embracing the new creed, the future glitters with possibilities.

Tomorrow: Think-tanks

Another brick in the bank

The other week *Forbes* magazine published a league table of pop stars' and other entertainers' earnings in the United States, detailing the tens of millions of dollars that stars such as Oprah Winfrey, Clint Eastwood, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and (would you believe it) The Eagles still generate. Last year, an analyst did the same for British rock stars, using published company accounts. Sixth on the list was David Gilmour of Pink Floyd at a sliver under £5m. Tenth was Roger Waters, also of Pink Floyd before their acrimonious bust-up in the early 1980s, at £3.8m. How do they do it?

Well, in the case of £643.75 worth of Roger Waters' princely income, I can tell you. The story goes like this. Last year, I produced a book called *The Five Giants*, a history of the welfare state since Beveridge, in the course of which I quoted one verse – one verse – from Pink Floyd's *The Wall*: the famous one about "Teachers leave them kids alone" to illustrate a point about education in the 1970s.

I also quoted lines from the Beatles' *Taxman*, Lionel Bart's *Fings Ain't What They Used To Be*, and from EJ Harburg's *Buddy can you spare a dime?*

A quote's a quote. And for perfectly good reasons – if you ever write a hit song you may only ever write one – songwriters, like poets, expect royalties. So my publisher, HarperCollins, and I wrote off for permission, expecting to pay a fee. Duly, the letters came back. George Harrison (yes, he wrote *Taxman*) wanted £35. Lionel Bart £30. Harburg's publishers £47 for the line "They used to tell me I was

building a dream..." Fair enough. Pink Floyd Music Publishers, on behalf of Mr Waters, wanted £350!

Surely some mistake. After all, I'd quoted not the whole song but one verse. No one was depriving anybody of anything. Indeed, I was doing anything. I was offering up a little free advertising, to be paid for by myself.

My editors were equally horrified. We wrote back, along the lines of "you cannot be serious". It was gently pointed out to Pink Floyd Music Publishers that this was no potential airport bodice-ripper but rather – I use my publisher's words – "a scholarly history of the welfare state since 1940". We offered them £50 – a sum we pointed out would still be the largest single permission charge. No joy.

The paperback is now out, and Pink Floyd Music Publishers have been back to the trough. Another £293.75 to quote the verse in the paperback edition – almost £650 in all.

But perhaps I should have known. Back in 1973, Mr Waters also wrote *Money for Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon*. Its lyrics include the immortal lines:

Money it's a gas
Grab that cash with both hands
And make a dash

Don't give me that do goody-good bullshit
I'm in the high fidelity, first class travelling set
And I think I need a Lear jet.

At the time, I thought Mr Waters was being ironic.

Nicholas Timmins

Build a bigger and better house than you could afford to buy!

When you self build, the choice is all yours to get exactly the house that you want. And because you're in control, you can put all of your money into your new home, rather than a developer's pocket! For most self builders the result is a home 30% bigger and better than they could afford to buy! Hardly surprising then that last year alone, around a third of all new detached houses were self built in the UK.

If you're interested in finding out more, **The National Self Build Homes Show** has everything you need to design and build your own individual home or convert a property. There's land for sale and properties suitable for conversion, self build lenders, architects and package build companies, building materials, luxury kitchens & bathrooms, seminars & workshops, a self build cinema, free Advice Centre and a stunning central feature, the Self Build Experience which takes you on a journey through all the stages involved with designing and building your own individual home.

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Share prices fall on fears of US interest rate rise

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Share prices fell sharply on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday, overshadowed by the risk of an increase in US interest rates later today.

The FT-SE 100 index in London retreated further away from the symbolic 4,000 level, ending more than 44 points down at 3,919.7.

Most City experts believe Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, decided to leave base rates unchanged after his meeting yesterday with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Although the meeting ended too late to be sure of the outcome, Mr Clarke was expected to turn down the Bank's advice to increase the cost of borrowing by a quarter of a percentage point to 6 per cent.

However, the balance of the decision in the US is expected to tilt in favour of higher interest rates. Two thirds of Federal Reserve governors were reported, according to a leaked Fed document, to favour an immediate increase.

If the vote on the Federal Open Market Committee today goes their way, it will be the first rise in US interest rates since February 1995.

Shares on Wall Street fell sharply enough to trigger the New York Stock Exchange's curbs on automated deals. Within a few minutes of opening the Dow Jones industrial index was more than 50 points down at 5,838, although trading volumes were light because of the Yom Kippur holiday.

US Treasury bond prices fell too, despite a boost from confirmation that plans to issue inflation-indexed securities will be published tomorrow.

The financial markets are becoming concerned that a change in the interest rate environment will trigger the long-predicted crash - or "major correction" - on Wall Street. A growing chorus of analysts have warned that shares are overvalued, even as the Dow Jones index has headed towards the 6,000 level.

The Federal Reserve is expected, by a small majority of analysts, to raise rates by at least a quarter point because the US economy has managed to defy predictions that it would slow down in the second half of this year.

Anger as Heseltine considers removal of job safeguards

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Labour yesterday warned that up to half the UK workforce could lose the right to redundancy pay and compensation for unfair dismissal if the Government carried out recommendations from its deregulation task force.

Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that ministers were starting a consultation exercise to examine whether small firms should be exempt from some employment rights. Earlier this year Mr Heseltine had to shelve similar plans after the news was leaked to the press.

Legislation would probably affect firms employing 10 workers or fewer, though the task force said no decisions had been taken about how to grade businesses. In 1993 there were 3.3 million businesses employing fewer than nine people.

Workers gain employment rights after two years' service with the same employer. The new regime, which would affect only new employees, could raise this limit or abolish it.

Francis Maude, the task force head and former Conservative minister who works for the Morgan Stanley investment bank, admitted the job cre-

ation impact of the measure was not "scientifically provable". But he said: "Our instincts are probably at the radical end... there is a lot of latent employment that could be created by very small businesses."

Labour claimed the proposals would affect 12 million people by 2000. Ian McCartney, the party's chief employment spokesman, said 4.5 million workers last year changed jobs, of which the bulk, about 4 million, were probably employed by small firms.

"By the turn of the century virtually half the workers in Britain will have no employment rights. These are the kinds of proposals you get from dictators," he said.

Mr Heseltine hit back at critics who claimed the deregulation initiative was little more than a propaganda exercise. He insisted the task force, which includes Asda boss and prospective Conservative candidate Archie Norman and the former Tory MP Michael Fallon, had made a "very considerable impact". So far 750 regulations had been repealed or amended and the target was to increase this to 1,100 by the end of the year.

The main concrete measure announced yesterday was to cut the number of official sta-

tistical surveys which small firms have to complete. Roger Freeman, the cabinet minister responsible for deregulation, said a three-year "holiday" from official form-filling could save industry £17.5m by 2000.

However many small businesses were unimpressed by the rate of progress. Ronald Stallard, who employs eight staff at a Sussex plant here company, said: "If anything it has made things worse. They're trying to get round all the regulations which didn't matter and in the process are creating more paperwork, not less."

The Forum of Private Business yesterday released figures showing the burden of red tape and tax rules had become as important a concern as late payment of debt. A spokesman said this suggested that the problem had not been significantly eased.

The task force's second annual report included a collection of recommendations covering everything from regulations on factory machinery to controls over ear piercing.

Another idea under consideration is to replace regulations with private insurance assessed by risk. This could cover the carriage of dangerous goods, inspection of driving instructors and outdoor activity centres.



Michael Heseltine: Deregulation Task Force has made an impact. Photograph: Andrew Burman

Profit warning puts Berisford under pressure

MAGNUS GRIMOND

The management at Berisford, led by chief executive Alan Bowkett, were under pressure from the City yesterday after a profits warning sent shares in the Magnet kitchens to catering equipment group to a three-year low.

The market was braced for bad news after Berisford said last month that workers at Magnet's Darlington factory had voted for strike action, hitting production. But what stunned analysts was news that Weibull, a US manufacturer of commercial kitchen equipment for the likes of McDonalds and Burger King, had been hit by a series of problems ranging from lower demand to difficulties with a new computer system.

The shares plunged 40.5p to 106p after Berisford said the setbacks meant profits in the year ending this month would now only be around £25m. That is below the £26.9m the group made last year, its first profit for several years, and well below analysts' forecasts of around £35m for the current year. The company's forecast that it would raise the total dividend by a half to 4.5p failed to reassure investors.

The news means both the major acquisitions made over the past two and a half years to revitalise the previously loss-making commodities group

have now turned sour. One City observer said yesterday it would be "touch and go" whether the present management could survive.

"Magnet was what people were waiting for. But the problems at Weibull mean no part of the business is going well now. Two acquisitions and both have gone wrong", he said, "but at least Magnet was cheap." Given the net £26m paid for Magnet, the £295m paid for Weibull meant "the burden to do something with Weibull is greater."

Mr Bowkett, who invited controversy last year after making a paper profit of £6.4m on the exercise of share options, was putting a brave face on yesterday's news. "I think in the City its normal to over-react to good and bad news."

Magnet was currently running at 40 to 50 per cent of capacity, but should be back to full stretch by the first week of November, he said. Although the previous workforce of 375 has been dismissed, 70 have been re-employed and 100 new workers had now also started work. The impact of deferred sales as a result of the strike would be around £3.5m, although some of that would be made up by extra business in the new financial year starting in October, Mr Bowkett said.

The US business has been hit by the "inefficient introduction" of a computer system.

Lloyd's refusniks to continue battle in court

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Rebel Lloyd's names who refused to sign up to the market's £3.2bn rescue plan said yesterday they were to set up an organisation which was expected to continue the fight in the courts.

The United Names Organisation is to hold its inaugural meeting in London on Thursday, and founder members claimed it was likely to attract

a "core membership" of 2,500. Leaders of Lloyd's rebel groups in the US and Canada are expected to attend.

The formation of the new group is the first public confirmation that the Lloyd's refusniks, as some describe themselves, are likely to continue the war despite losing the biggest battle.

Earlier this month, Lloyd's reached acceptance levels of more than 94 per cent of its 34,000 names for the recon-

struction and renewal plan. More than 1,800 members refused to sign.

Sir William Jaffrey, one of the founders of the new grouping, made clear that plans were being prepared to accuse Lloyd's in court of fraud over the £8bn of losses the market ran up.

He said: "We have the resources across the board to fight to the bitter end. It will be real financial power going after Lloyd's."

Whether the organisation planned to take the initiative and sue Lloyd's for fraud.

The alternative is to wait for Lloyd's to sue names who have refused to sign up for the rescue plan, for recovery of their debts.

Fraud would then be used as a defence against Lloyd's claims for the unpaid money, which could run into hundreds of millions of pounds.

Catherine Mackenzie-Smith, joint chairwoman of the new or-

ganisation, said it was not a matter which side started the case because "it comes to the same thing in the end".

Sir William claimed that 5,000 of the Lloyd's names who had accepted the rescue offer had put conditions into their acceptance letters and he hoped this category of names would join the organisation. A Lloyd's spokesman said the claim was "rubbish," because no conditional acceptances had been counted.

A separate organisation called Friends of United Names is being set up to accept donations from Lloyd's names who joined the rescue plan but want to encourage the rebel names to fight on.

Sir William, a property consultant, also said a new foundation was being established to campaign against fraud of all types, anywhere in the world, and he hoped it would win endorsements worth "hundreds of millions".

Banks warn over single currency timetable

PETER RODGERS

British banks warned yesterday that the worst possible outcome of the discussions over monetary union would be Britain delaying a decision because of political disputes but eventually signing up for full participation on the same timetable as everybody else.

A joint paper by the British Bankers' Association, the Association for Payment Clearing Services and the London Investment Banking Association said this could be "highly disruptive for all sectors of the economy and expose UK financial institutions to real com-

petitive disadvantage." The chain of events the bankers fear is a delay in a UK decision to beyond early 1998.

The risk is that any delay in signing at that stage could be followed by a belated British decision to catch up and complete the transition to a single currency by 2002.

The paper said that if the changeover is to be completed by the target date of 2002, detailed specifications for the investments required would have to be drawn up in 1997 and implementation would have to start in 1998.

But bankers are concerned that with an election next year

and wrangling continuing in both main political parties, the chances of a clear-cut decision in 1997 or early 1998 do not appear good.

The last estimate for the cost of monetary union to British banks, drawn up in 1994, was £1bn, but that assumed a single "Big Bang" transition. Bankers said that the cost would be at least 50 per cent more with a phased transition over several years of the kind now planned.

The banks' paper backed the claim a week ago by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that the City is likely to benefit whether Britain stays in or out of monetary union.

Caymans to take tough line on money laundering

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

The Cayman Islands, the secretive Caribbean financial centre, said yesterday it had taken new powers to stamp out money laundering and seize the proceeds of crime.

The campaign to clean up the image of the British dependency follows sustained pressure since the 1980s from the US and the UK government, and is being carried out with the help of British officials.

It includes the establishment next January of a new Monetary Authority to combine the functions of the present currency

board and financial supervision department.

The Monetary Authority, modelled on those in Hong Kong, Singapore, Bahrain and Bermuda, is being set up with the advice of Richard Chalmers, a Bank of England supervisor official responsible for liaison with overseas financial centres.

The staff of 26 is to be built up to 40 and John Flemming, the inspector of financial services, will take over as head of the authority. His predecessor, Jennifer Dilbert, is now managing director of Morgan Grenfell in the Cayman Islands.

The tougher stance was welcomed by the Foreign Office

which said: "This decision marks an important step in the Caymans' fight against international money laundering and will help to ensure that the islands are not used to hide or launder illicit proceeds."

Although the Caymans have been a notorious centre for money laundering and brasserie companies, bankers say their record has improved since the late 1980s, when a Misuse of Drugs Law was passed.

In future it will be a criminal offence if a financial services provider fails to report suspicions that a client has been engaged in or benefited from crime.

FirstBus bid goes to MMC

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

FirstBus's attempt to become Britain's biggest bus company was put on hold yesterday after its bid for SB Holdings, the parent company of Strathclyde Buses, was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

John Taylor, the consumer affairs minister, said yesterday: "The acquisition raises competition concerns in the operation of the bus market in central Scotland which merit investigation by the MMC."

FirstBus, formed by the merger of Badgerline and GRT in 1995, launched its bid for SB Holdings in May, offering £110m. The takeover of SB would put it ahead of Cowie and Stagecoach.

SB Holdings was bought by its employees for £21m in 1993 when Strathclyde Buses was privatised, and the 3,500 workers were expected to enjoy a share-out of around £35,000 each for the 6,000 shares they would receive if the deal was allowed to go ahead.

There was speculation at the time of the bid in May that a ref-

erence to the MMC was likely because the company already owned Grampian, Midland Bluebird and Lowland in Scotland. The local Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority had expressed concerns over the takeover, particularly the potential it gave for FirstBus to have "excessive dominance" in the Greater Glasgow Area.

However, Mr Taylor stressed yesterday that he was only following the rules and "the decision to make a reference does not in any way prejudice the question of whether or not the merger would be against the public interest."

Stagecoach has already fallen foul of the regulatory authorities over SB, having been forced to sell a 21.7 per cent holding in the company at the end of 1994.

FirstBus is still in acquisition mood and last month announced that it intended to bid for nearly all the remaining 12 rail franchises. It already jointly controls Great Western with the management buyout team and is particularly interested in the ScotRail franchise but this is also likely to cause problems with the Office of Fair Trading.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3919.70	+	+0.0	3977.20	3632.30
FTSE 250	4394.60	+	+0.0	4568.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1956.80	+	+0.0	1985.80	1816.60
FT Small Cap	2180.02	+	+0.0	2244.35	1954.06
FT All Share	1934.02	+	+0.0	1981.01	1791.85
New York	5887.01	-31.45	-0.5	5886.20	5022.94
Tokyo	-	-	-	2268.80	1973.70
Hong Kong	11622.13	+	+0.0	11821.81	10204.87
Frankfurt	2827.04	+	+0.0	2846.53	2253.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling*	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields*	
1 Month	1 Year	10 Year	1 Month	1 Year	10 Year
UK 5.81	6.19	7.82	5.44	6.13	8.10
US 5.44	6.13	6.84	5.25	7.05	8.58
Japan 0.38	0.72	2.85	2.63	-	-
Germany 3.93	3.09	6.20	6.50	6.99	-

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/Y	£/A	£/S	£/F
1.52	2.27	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52
1.52	2.27	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52
1.52	2.27	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52
1.52	2.27	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52

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A price to pay for holding out on interest rates

If Britain had an independent central bank, base rates would climb by a quarter point to 6 per cent this morning. Would there be any suspicion that the election cycle was more important than setting the right interest rate policy?

It is easy to forget the closeness of the link between the level of US interest rates and UK base rates. This autumn looks like being one of those episodes when the paths diverge for a short while. It happened last in 1994. The Fed increased rates over there from February onwards. Kenneth Clarke opted for one more cut over here, until he reversed it in September.

If the Fed does increase the target Federal Funds rate today, as many analysts expect, while the Chancellor leaves base rates unchanged, the gap between the two will be the narrowest for more than a decade. This is likely to have two market consequences. First, the pound might come under pressure in the run-up to the election. It has been well-behaved recently, but a smaller interest rate differential will leave it vulnerable to a new bout of political uncertainty or the next EMU row.

Secondly, there will probably be a price to pay at the long-term end of the interest rate spectrum. Gilt-edged underperformance over government bonds, in the financial markets' verdict on the UK's inflation outlook. They will underperform by more if the Chancellor has, as expected, turned down the advice of the Governor of the Bank of England. This advice will not be public for another six weeks, but Eddie George is widely thought to have urged a cautious quarter-point rise in base rates on Mr Clarke.

Does it matter that there is a small price

to pay in terms of policy credibility for a decision that many people will agree with the Chancellor to be finely balanced? After all, evidence on the economy is somewhat mixed, with industry lagging behind the consumer recovery.

To see that the answer is yes, turn the question around. If Britain had an independent central bank, base rates would climb by a quarter point to 6 per cent this morning. Would there be any suspicion that the election cycle was more important than setting the right interest rate policy? An independent Bank of England would need to be made politically accountable but other countries have managed that. The case for the Bank's independence grows stronger with every day Mr Clarke holds out.

Heseltine's big idea is a dangerous one

The trouble with Michael Heseltine's Deregulation Task Force has always been trying to decide whether it is a sinister attack on the rights of every employee and consumer in the land or an exercise in the utterly fatuous. As an example of inspired policy-making, it sits somewhere between the Citizens' Charter and Back to Basics as either a total irrelevance or a positive menace.

But, as with all big ideas dreamt up by Cabinet ministers these days, nobody quite

has the heart to do the decent thing and give it a proper burial. Like the Private Finance Initiative, the deregulation initiative is dusted down every year, given a new lease of life and relaunched on an unsuspecting world.

There are many areas of commerce and everyday life where deregulation and liberalisation have brought huge benefits without undermining consumer protection or employee rights. Yesterday Francis Maude, who took on the chairmanship of the Task Force when he lost his proper job in politics (he used to be Financial Secretary) named a few of them. Deregulation, he said, had brought us Sunday trading, all-day pub opening, better telephones and cheaper air fares.

This is all true. Sadly, however, none of this had anything to do with his Task Force. Denied the opportunity to deregulate in those areas of the economy that are the province of others, the Task Force is instead left to hack away at red tape in areas which are plain silly or plain dangerous.

Thus, on the one hand we have a proposal to relax the licensing requirements on people who make a living out of body piercing and, on the other, a proposal to remove a swathe of employment rights from those working for small firms.

The Task Force has also introduced us to the concept of risk pricing as an alternative to regulation. Thus, instead of having detailed regulations on the safety of industrial machinery, insurance companies would

be left to set standards through the policies they devise and the premiums they charge.

It must have occurred to someone at the Task Force that this might lead to bigger premiums. Economy of thought was not, however, in much evidence in yesterday's outpourings. The Task Force might be committed to cutting down on paperwork but it still took four press releases and two glossy reports yesterday to spell out what it is up to.

No need for small investors to panic

Asked what he thought the market would do that day, JP Morgan once said: "It will fluctuate, boy, it will fluctuate." He meant that neither he nor anyone else could hope to know where the market was headed in the short term. Implicit in his quip was the message that in the long run it doesn't matter — he would have lost no sleep over yesterday's 44 point fall in the All Share.

Since 1919, a time period long enough for even the most persistent statistical blips to be ironed out, shares have outperformed other financial instruments by such a wide margin that it is a wonder that anyone both invests in any other asset.

The real return of 8 per cent for shares compared to under 3 per cent for gilts represents a mind-boggling difference when compounded year after year for more than

three quarters of a century. It is a statistic that should be remembered while reading the panicky gloom-mongering currently masquerading as market commentary. For the long term investor, whether to be in or out of equities is an idle question.

The bearish stance being taken by Tony Dye of PDEM may well be borne out in the long run. But that is of little relevance to small investors. Catching the peaks and troughs is beyond even the best paid fund managers. For other investors it is a futile strategy. Apart from the sheer impossibility of timing moves that well, the cost of bouncing in and out of shares makes the exercise largely counter-productive.

After the cost of commission on the way in, the effect of the bid-offer spread and the price of selling again, a share has to appreciate by at least 5 per cent, and often by much more, just to wash its face. Sensible investors, such as the American tax inspector who retired in 1945 with \$5,000 and died last year with \$22m, buy and sell shares as infrequently as they can.

The trick in jittery markets like these is not to panic: continue to buy shares in genuine growth companies with low ratings relative to their high and sustainable earnings growth rates. Look for the support of good cash flow and ride the momentum of shares that are already outperforming the market. Most important, stop worrying about the market which will continue to fluctuate, boy, fluctuate.

Lloyds TSB to cut jobs as insurance arms merge

JILL TREANOR
Banking Correspondent

Hundreds of jobs are threatened at Lloyds TSB as a result of the merger of the group's TSB and Abbey Life insurance arms. But the bank said yesterday it was determined to expand its insurance operations and would consider further acquisitions in the sector.

Lloyds TSB announced plans last week to buy up the remaining stake in Lloyds Abbey Life, its majority-owned insurance venture.

Sir Brian Pitman, outgoing chief executive and chairman designate, said: "We are keen to go on expanding our insurance business. We think it is a growth market. If opportunities [arise] to grow further by acquisitions, we'd certainly be interested at the right price."

Lloyds TSB now has the task of linking Lloyds Abbey Life with the other insurance business it acquired through its merger with TSB last year. It already expects £50m of cost savings in the next three years by uniting the two businesses.

The bank is drawing up a management structure for the insurance business and has to decide which of its well-known brands to keep.

In addition, more than 2,000 Lloyds Abbey Life staff and just under 2,000 TSB staff will be affected by the review, although the bank aims to achieve staff reductions on a voluntary basis.

The bank said it was too early to detail the number of job

losses as Lloyds Abbey Life shareholders would not meet until November to approve the deal.

Peter Ellwood, who takes over as chief executive next year, said the bank would retain the best of both businesses.

"Lloyds Abbey Life has excellent technology, superior to anything else we have," said Mr Ellwood, while TSB had an integrated approach to selling which gave a high level of productivity.

The Lloyds Abbey Life venture was formed in 1988 when Lloyds merged its insurance businesses — Black Horse Financial Services, Lloyds Bank Insurance Services, Lloyds Bowmaker Finance, Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers and Black Horse Agencies — with Abbey Life.

However, after the Lloyds Bank merger with TSB last year, the newly formed bank also gained TSB's bancassurance units: TSB Life, TSB General Insurance, UDT, the consumer finance group, and TSB Property Service. Lloyds Abbey Life also contains the core business that Abbey Life brought to the venture, mainly Abbey Life Assurance.

Market sources expect the bank to spin off this Abbey Life business through a trade sale, despite moves by Lloyds TSB to quash such speculation yesterday. "I do think there's a price for everything and I think Abbey Life is of significant value to a European insurer," said one source.

IN BRIEF

• Richard Katz, head of equity trading at ING Barings, has resigned, the bank said yesterday. Market sources said there had been friction between Mr Katz, who had run equity trading for Barings, and the bank's new owner, ING of the Netherlands. Mr Katz was one of the few Barings directors to survive a purge in the wake of the bank's acquisition by ING. He was also the last member of the asset and liability committee of Barings — which was in charge of risk management — to remain at the group.

• Two Swiss lawyers who were board members of Luxembourg-based holding companies linked to Peter Young, the sacked Deutsche Morgan Grenfell fund manager, said they were aiding a company probe into potential irregularities. "Wyer & Wolf, a law firm in Zurich, has agreed to fully cooperate with the representatives of Morgan Grenfell investigating the difficulties which have arisen in three funds managed by Morgan Grenfell," the firm said in a brief statement. The firm denied it had "supported" any operations by Mr Young, but said it would provide no further information.

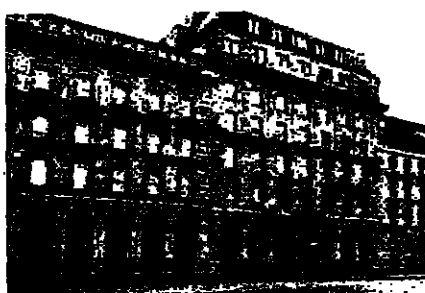
• Inchcape said the sale of its Testing business and planned demerger of insurance group Bain Hogg were still on track despite disappointing the market by failing to furnish details of either deal with yesterday's interim profits figures. The results were the first since the company changed its top management and slashed its final dividend in March. Difficult trading conditions in all its businesses held underlying profits before exceptional items flat at £82.8m (£83.3m) in the half year to June. The interim dividend of 4.2p will be paid as an enhanced foreign income dividend worth 5.25p per share.

Investment column, page 22

• Small and medium-sized companies have seen foreign competition increase by a third in the past decade, according to a report published today by the Economic and Social Research Council. The report, "The Changing State of British Enterprise", also finds that most new technologies acquired by these firms originate within the UK.

• Safeway is to create the equivalent of 1,100 part-time jobs this Christmas to help reduce checkout queues at peak times. The additional staff will take part in Safeway's £2m "Queue-buster" initiative and help with bag-packing as well as working in the supermarket's coffee shops, bakeries and kiosks, greeting shoppers on arrival and helping parents with young children. Staff will wear yellow aprons.

The Portland, Manchester.



The Brighton Thistle, Brighton.



The Prince of Wales, Garmers.



The Mount Royal, London.



The Selfridge, London.



The Royal Horseguards, London.



New Hall, Sutton Coldfield.

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Inchcape on slow road to recovery

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Putting people against the wall is often the easy part of a revolution. Making sure things continue to improve after the smoke has cleared and the excitement of change has died down a bit is a much bigger challenge, as Inchcape is finding to its cost.

The car import to Coca-Cola bottling group's shares closed lower last night after barely changed interim profits before exceptional items confirmed what a long haul recovery is going to be. The new hands on the tiller, Sir Colin Marshall's in the chair and chief executive Philip Cushing's, may be firmer than their predecessors', but it will be a while before their names are safe.

As the old adage has it, when a manager arrives at a company with a reputation for underperformance, it is the reputation of the company that tends to remain unimpaired.

The profits performance outlined in the table is misleading, including as it does a chunky one-off charge last year as Inchcape started to get to grips with the high-yen induced problems that hit it so hard at the end of 1994. More informative is the underlying picture which showed pre-exceptional profits of £82.8m in the half year to June, barely changed from 1995's £83.3m.

Breaking that down by activity shows what a curate's egg Inchcape still is, even excluding the planned divestments of the Bain Hogg insurance arm and the testing business which new management would really have liked to have sold by now. Busting self-imposed deadlines is not a surefire way to recover the trust of the City.

In cars, more than two thirds of on-going profits now, a healthy increase in profits from import and distribution was largely undone by poor trading from the motor dealerships. Marketing suffered from margin pressure in potato snacks, falling beer keg sales and start-up costs in Timberland stores.

Bottling slipped a bit thanks to the cost of setting up in Russia and Mr Cushing was fairly cautious about other ventures into "undeveloped" markets before that risky business was more firmly bedded in.

Analysts were left largely underwhelmed by the figures, as the 9.5p slide in the share price to 293p suggested, and full-year forecasts of between £160m and £170m were left unchanged yesterday. At the bottom end of that range, the shares trade on a prospective p/e of 17, which means earnings will have to grow at no less than the forecast 20 per cent next year to justify the still pretty fancy rating.

Having cut the dividend from 15p in

Rutland finds the way to riches

There is more than a sense of déjà vu about Rutland Trust, the mini-conglomerate headed by Michael Langdon. Using the old Kellogg Trust factoring group, Mr Langdon set out nearly 10 years ago to take majority stakes in fundamentally sound businesses which had lost their way financially or strategically. The aim was, as it remains, to sort them out, add value and sell on at a profit.

Although Mr Langdon fiercely resists the suggestion, it is a way to riches which led nowhere for a host of similar groups after the 1980s stock market boom faded. But while the likes of Abaco, Ilico and most notably Cannon Street Investments fell by the wayside

in the aftermath of the crash and the slump, Rutland remains and, indeed, appears to be prospering. Pre-tax profits of £4.9m for the six months to June, down from £6.86m before, look respectable enough after stripping out the £1.98m gain from business sales and at the earnings line a 44 per cent advance was impressive.

Groups such as Rutland clearly rest on their ability to turn round businesses, rather than the internal logic of their make-up.

The sale of part of soft drinks business Benjamin Shaw more than repaid the initial £5.7m investment in less than five months. The money from that sale and Leasecontracts, a contract hire group, was recycled into acquiring a majority stake in Thamesport last year for £52m.

Thus far, Thamesport is delivering the goods. It is set to reach its target throughput of 200,000 20-foot equivalent containers this year, up a third on last year, with the 250,000 level expected to be reached early in the new year.

The icing on the cake is that £60m of capital allowances will ensure that

the main Rutland businesses will pay no tax for the foreseeable future, hence the growth in underlying earnings per share.

Full-year profits of £11.9m would put the shares at 59p, down 1.25p, on a forward multiple of 16 after more than doubling since the middle of last year. Compared with forecast earnings growth in the high 20 per cent range that is still reasonable value.

Regent plans to head up north

Pub retailers have gained handsomely in recent years as the big brewers lost their monopoly on licences and prime sites became readily available as banks, post offices and booking halls were closed and converted into boozers. Regent Inns, which operates 60 pubs, has gained more than most.

Since floating at the equivalent of 27p in 1993, the shares have raced ahead, peaking at almost 250p earlier this year. News of an 81 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.0m in the year to 6 July on turnover 44 per cent higher at £31.8m initially gave the shares another fillip yesterday before they succumbed to profit-taking.

A total of 13 pubs were opened during the year, with underlying sales 11 per cent higher than 1995, which was itself a vintage one for pub operators.

The secret of Regent's success is a flexible formula that largely eschews branded pubs in favour of a cross between a wine bar and standard pub.

Regent has also benefited from the relative strength of the capital's economy. Now the plan is to head up north, where David Franks, Regent's managing director, believes the pub scene is woefully underinvested.

A vehicle for such expansion is last month's £6.3m acquisition of Crossgate Leisure, which brought with it 11 snooker halls and seven café bars. Organic growth also continues apace, bolstered by a strong balance sheet and gearing of around 30 per cent.

Regent is on target for more than 100 outlets by the year end. Mr Franks might balk at running a business twice that size, but he may not have to if Regent were bought by an acquisitive brewer like Whitbread or Bass.

Brokers are upgrading their pre-tax forecasts by £1m to about £12m, implying a p/e ratio of 20 with the shares down 2p at 234.5p. The fancy rating is on a par with the much larger JD Wetherspoon, but fairly reflects growth this year of well over 30 per cent. Hold.

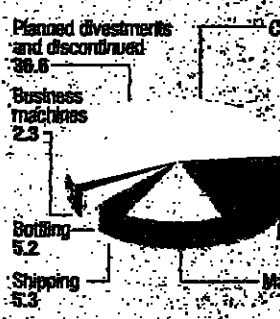
INCHCAPE: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.55bn, share price 292.5p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1995	1996
Turnover (£m)	5,000	5,700	6,300	6,300	6,300
Pre-tax profits (£m)	271	228	174	186	75.3
Earnings per share (pence)	23.9	20.3	16.3	16.3	16.3
Dividends per share (pence)	14.8	15.0	11.5	8.0	4.2

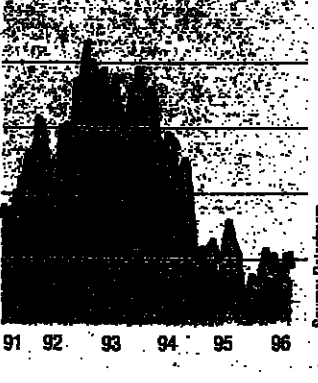
Profit by activity

£m



Share price

pence



Close Brothers notches up 21st annual increase

JILL TREANOR
Banking Correspondent

Close Brothers, the merchant banking group, yesterday reported record full-year results, and hinted that it would expand its investment management business through acquisitions.

The 33 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to slightly more than £45m in the year to 31 July was the 21st successive annual increase, and included only a negligible contribution from the Hill Samuel Corporate Finance (HSCF) business bought in May. Close Brothers said it had not suffered from a wave of client and staff defections at HSCF which are all too common following takeovers involving City firms.

Asset finance and the Winterflood market-making business were the main drivers of the growth in profits, which was accompanied by a 17 per cent rise in total dividends to 10p per share. Close Brothers' shares advanced by 3.5p to 343.5p.

Rod Kent, managing director of Close Brothers, said, "Winterflood had a 'fabulous year' and had a good market position in its specialist area of small stocks."

Winterflood, which makes markets in all of the 210 companies on the Alternative Investment Market, increased its share of Close Brothers' total profits from 22 to 35 per cent. Asset finance made 45 per cent of group profits, and the remaining 20 per cent came from traditional merchant banking.

"Overall, all of the areas of business have done well," added Mr Kent, who wants the bank

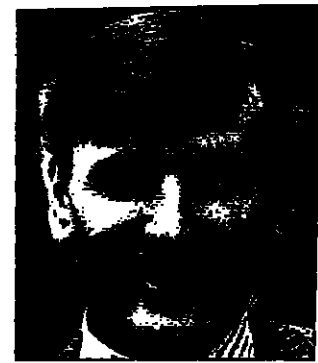
to increase its "fee earning business" over the coming years, particularly in corporate finance and investment management.

Close Brothers' investment management business is specialist, offering products such as risk-protected index unit trusts.

Mr Kent said the bank had no intention to expand into more mainstream market products such as unit trusts, but would consider acquisitions in investment management.

Brisk business in mergers and acquisitions is fueling profits at most merchant banks, but Mr Kent said Close Brothers' plans to build its expertise in this area were not based on this year's hectic market. "This is a core area for us," Mr Kent said. Unlike many other banks, Close Brothers does not intend to expand its corporate finance business to offer a wide range of products to its clients.

"What we are is purely independent. We do not lend to the companies we advise. We are very clear by what we mean by corporate finance," Mr Kent said.



Rod Kent: said Winterflood had a 'fabulous year'

Proudfoot profits fall

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Proudfoot, the worldwide management consultancy group, saw its shares slide yesterday after it warned that profits in the rest of the year would be below the first-half level. The 3.5p drop to 27p means the share price is just 8.5p clear of its all-time low and came despite news that Proudfoot had returned to the black in the six months to June.

The group, chaired until last year by Lord Stevens of Ludgate, has been hit by several profits disappointments since the shares hit a peak of over

400p in 1991. But Malcolm Hughes, the chief executive who has overseen a restructuring of the business, said he did not regard yesterday's statement as a profits warning. The first-half figures, which showed a profit of £2.52m replacing losses of £5.79m last time, had met expectations, he said.

However while the second-half numbers were also likely to meet expectations, the switch to lower-margin business at the group may mean that they could come in lower.

Analysts are expecting profits of around £5m for the full year, which Mr Hughes said was

"a realistic assessment of what is a recovery a year after the restructuring we announced at the half-way stage". He said volumes in the current year were running around 10 per cent ahead of the original budget, which envisaged 6,500 "man weeks" of consultancy or turnover of £70m in 1996.

Proudfoot also announced yesterday a strategic alliance between its Philip Crosby Associates corporate training arm and Organisational Dynamics, a US training group. Net cash stands at £5.9m but the group is not paying an interim dividend to preserve cash reserves.

IN BRIEF

• Scholl is to implement a £29.4m strategic review involving a focus on the Scholl brand and key categories of footwear and footcare. Stephen Walls, the new chief executive, said other brands are to be divested, third-party distribution reduced and the management of European operations cut from five into two divisions. In the six months to June Scholl posted a pre-tax loss after exceptional £21.9m versus a profit of £11.8m on sales 9 per cent higher at £1.19m.

• Burford has exchanged contracts with Prudential to buy a building overlooking London's Trafalgar Square for £7m which is to be converted into a hotel with 100 bedrooms.

• Prism Rail said it is one of the parties to be shortlisted for the franchise to operate Merseyrail Electrics. Prism Rail has already been awarded the franchises for LTS Rail Limited, South Wales & West Railway Limited and Cardiff Railway Company Limited.

• Conrad, the Manchester-based sports and leisure group, is reportedly interested in buying a top English football team. Speculation centred on a possible swoop for Sheffield Wednesday or Nottingham Forest. Earlier this year Conrad lost out to Caspian, the media group, in a battle for control of Leeds United.

• AEA Technology's offer price range for its flotation may be raised to 250p-280p per share from 240-270 pence. Schroders, sponsors to the offer, said the possible increase in the price range was due to demand for AEA Technology - the state-owned former Atomic Energy Authority - exceeding expectations.

COMPANY RESULTS				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Aspen Corrosion (I)	38.31m (37.03m)	1.04m (1.63m)	4.5p (7.8p)	2.5p (2.5p)
Bonanza Corp (I)	87.68m (89.43m)	3.89m (3.16m)	8.85p (8.23p)	6.35p (4.84p)
Britannia Group (I)	19.04m (22.42m)	-2.10m (0.22m)	-8.7p (1.0p)	nil (0.9p)
Close Brothers (F)	- (-)	45.11m (33.9m)	24.8p (22.2p)	10.0p (8.5p)
Commonwealth (F)	69.81m (63.43m)	10.71m (8.5m)	21.8p (17.8p)	10.0p (8.8p)
Inchcape (I)	3.16m (3.12m)	75.3m (18.8m)	7.3p (2.4p)	5.25p (7.50p)
Midwest Energy (F)	46.81m (15.82m)	15.27m (5.94m)	4.47p (2.96p)	0.87p (0.48p)
Prudential (I)	35.22m (38.85m)	2.52m (4.73m)	1.4p (4.84p)	nil (-)
Regent Inns (F)	31.77m (22.0m)	8.01m (5.1p)	8.8p (6.1p)	2.2p (1.4p)
Scholl (I)	119.33m (108.7m)	-21.9m (11.8m)	-31.8p (10.0p)	3.0p (2.8p)
SIG (I)	715.8m (117.4m)	14.2m (12.0m)	9.8p (10.2p)	2.4p (2.2p)
Transitcar (I)	113.9m (106.2m)	4.5m (3.1m)	3.1p (2.3p)	0.8p (0.7p)
T&A Stores (I)	248.4m (216.5m)	8.78m (8.09m)	8.36p (8.35p)	3.0p (2.8p)
WGL (I)	35.07m (24.83m)	1.30m (1.15m)	2.8p (2.5p)	2.3p (2.2p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (M) - Nine months

Beer salesman beat a path to Allied Domecq's door

BUSINESS & PEOPLE

Tony Hales and Sir Christopher Hogg are going to enjoy Allied Domecq's position as Britain's biggest independent buyer of beer if recent events at the group's HQ are anything to go by. The ink was barely dry on the Carlsberg Tetley deal with Bass when Allied's top brass were visited by some very high-level door-to-door salesmen attempting to flog their wares. With a chain of more than 4,000 pubs and soon able to buy its beer from whomever it chooses, Allied will be a very important customer indeed.

First to post his calling card was Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread. Approaching Mr Hales and Sir Christopher, he appeared somewhat embarrassed by his situation and decided on a jovial approach. "Hello, it's the beer salesman," was his cheery opener.

The next day and who should drop by but Brian Stewart, chief executive of Scottish & Newcastle, purveyors of Courage, Foster's and McEwan's. He said exactly the same thing.

Lachlan Murdoch continues his meteoric rise within his father's media empire. The 25-year-old Princeton graduate has been appointed man-

aging director of News Corporation's Australian subsidiary, News Limited. This is the main newspaper division which spans titles such as *The Australian* and *Victoria's Herald Sun*.

Rupert Murdoch's son will report to News Ltd chairman Ken Cowley, who said: "My primary function will be to shape the strategic direction of the group's businesses. Lachlan will concentrate on managing the News group operations and will report to me." Murdoch joined News Ltd in 1994 as general manager of Queensland Newspapers and was later promoted to deputy managing director of News Ltd. "My progress through News Ltd has been made possible because of the support of Mr Cowley and the other executives of the News group," Lachlan Murdoch said.

The sound of frantic backtracking can be heard in Scarborough, the Yorkshire seaside town no one wants to go to. The local council has officially repudiated Kevin Barrand, Scarborough's chief resorts officer, who described some of the town's older visi-

tors as "old farts" earlier this month after Saga Holidays dropped the resort from its brochure. Recognising a gaffe when he sees one, Scarborough council's chief executive, John Trebble, said the use of such language was "unacceptable" and "does not reflect the views of the borough which holds its senior citizens in high esteem". A humbled Mr Barrand has accepted the ticking off and is no doubt sweating over a marketing campaign aimed at luring back the offended over-50s.

Reuters, the media group, has named two new executive directors. Jean-Claude Marchand, 50, will head the company's Europe, Middle East and Africa division. Mr Marchand has worked at Reuters since 1971 when he joined as a sales executive in Switzerland. The other appointment goes to another long-server, John Parcell, who has put in 27 years at Reuters, will take over the group's financial information product line. The editor-in-chief, Mark Wood, will step down as an executive director to concentrate on editorial issues. He will continue to rep-

resent the company on the board of Independent Television News.

Proudfoot, the down-at-heel management consultancy group, has provided ample evidence that telling other people how to run their businesses does not necessarily mean you can run your own. A profits warning and a sliding share price was not how the chief executive, Michael Hughes, envisaged celebrating the group's half century and the pain showed in his remarks. "In a year in which Proudfoot celebrates its 50th anniversary, making the company one of the longest established consultancy organisations in the world, it is acknowledged that substantial improvement in financial performance has yet to be demonstrated." Perhaps it could be demonstrated in the next 50 years.

Liberty, the upmarket retailer, has completed its senior management reshuffle with the appointment of Julia Bove as marketing director. Ms Bove, 36, joins from rival Austin Reed. A keen golfer, Ms Bove also claims a "strong interest in fashion".

Nigel Cope



Rising star: Lachlan Murdoch is making his mark abroad

Dessert, soup, cheese, entrée, hors d'oeuvres.
Any order in any order

...that takes your fancy from a simple snack to a sumptuous 5-course meal. Then, if you feel like a nap after your gastronomic delight, our spacious... into the most comfortable... possible... from the...
...the Atlantic airline. All our business class fare. For reservations to over 100 destinations in the US, Canada and Mexico call your travel agent or...
...BUSINESS CLASS

كلنا من أكلة

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3919.7 -44.4FT-SE 250
4394.6 -33.6FT-SE 350
1956.8 -20.6SEAQ VOLUME
545m shares,

40,854 bargains

Gilt Index
93.15 -0.16

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Share price, pence

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0

SANDYFAMJAS

Sink or swim time for P&O's proposed joint venture

TAKING STOCK

Worries that the Brussels Eurocrats will delay, or possibly sink, the proposed joint venture between P&O and its Dutch rival, Nedlloyd, helped lower the shipping group's shares 27p to 573p.

With the stock market floundering as higher interest rates worried investors, P&O had to contend with the additional anxiety that its far-reaching deal with Nedlloyd could fail to produce the benefits the market expects.

Lord Sterling, P&O's chairman, has been under intense pressure to rescue the group's flagging shares. As competition has intensified, P&O has underperformed the rest of the market by around 30 per cent in the past five years.

The Dutch deal, linking the containership operations of the two, was seen as offering salvation. The combined group would have a £2.6bn turnover, net assets of £1bn and 112

ships. Cost savings should be extensive. The link is also seen as leading to other joint ventures.

No wonder, then, that P&O's shares responded, cruising from 517p to 607.5p. Brussels could, however, spoil the party and there are signs that, at best, P&O and Nedlloyd are in for a long, hard struggle.

The FT-SE 100 index was drenched in "red dye", bringing no doubt, some relief to P&O's fund manager Tony Dye, who is banking on a share crash and chosen cash as his safe haven.

Footsie lost 44.4 points to 3,919.7, destroying any short-term hopes of topping the crucial 4,000. But selling was modest. Turnover was again low and there were suggestions that technical influences following last week's futures expiry made a significant contribution to the rout.



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

The US authorities are due to meet today and with New York flat there are fears American rates are about to rise. But such a move would be surprising in the midst of a Presidential election campaign and would, presumably, indicate the US economy is bubbling much more than has been generally suspected.

Railtrack, still in its partly paid form, led the small batch of blue chips which made headway. The shares rose 6p to a 294p peak as stories of property revaluations and US state building continued to excite.

BTR had the dubious distinction of suffering the worst

blue chip fall, off 14p at 268.5p. Fellow conglomerate Williams Holdings lost 14p to 344.5p. BTG, the old British Technology Group, put on another 42.5p to 2,260p and Blenheim, the exhibitions group in takeover talks, added 5.5p to 436.5p.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, up to 621.5p, was helped along by a more positive stance from NatWest Securities. After a 15 per cent underperformance and with group trading improving, NatWest's Geof Collyer believes the shares have reached a fair rating.

As analysts met Unilever, the shares shaded 7.5p to

1,385p and Northern Foods, with analysts visiting its plants today and tomorrow, was little changed at 200p.

Cable and Wireless was firm at 455.5p on Salomon Brothers' support but in the prevailing negative climate a new buy recommendation from Lehman Brothers for Lloyds TSB could not prevent a 6.5p fall to 372p.

Grand Metropolitan, with a trading update expected on Friday, fell 6p to 471.5p with the poor results from Berisford's US catering equipment operations prompting worries about the performance of Burger King. Grand Met's fast-food offshoot, Berisford slumped 40.5p to 106p.

Suggestions the Rank Organisation is about to descend on the Tom Cobleigh pubs chain lowered the price 11.5p to 439p. Tom Cobleigh gained 1.5p to 234.5p. Pizza Express, the restaurant chain, sized

26p higher to 472.5p, largely on bid speculation.

The sale of Alpha Airport's US flight catering side for £6.8m failed to quench stories of bid action. A Canadian group, it is said, is planning to buy Granada's 25 per cent stake and then bid for full control. The shares edged 1p higher to 113p.

Conrad, which lost out to Caspian in the battle for Leeds Utd, scored a 1.25p gain to 5.25p on talk it was in negotiations with other Premiership football clubs, including Nottingham Forest and Sheffield Wednesday.

Helene, the clothing group, managed a 0.5p gain to 7.25p on stories Harold Tillman, who runs a German department store chain, is about to link with the company.

Aegis, the media buyer, held at 64.5p. Talk persists of bid action with the WPP advertising group thought to be interested.

□ Silver Shield, a windscreen replacement business, is thought to be edging towards a significant deal which would dramatically enlarge the group, currently with a market valuation of just over £5m. Under the chairman, Neil McChure, ex-UBS, the group intends to expand into vehicle and household areas where there is a strong insurance connection. The idea is to create an operation offering a range of services to insurance companies. Profits should be around £700,000 in its first full year as a quoted business. The shares fell 0.25p to 3.5p.

□ Remmon Mining rose 6.5p to 65.5p on director buying and positive news from Societe Generale Strauss Turnball. The securities house said: "We value the shares conservatively at three times the current share price."

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

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UK Company News 01 Sutton Report 05 Water Shares 37
UK Company News 02 Val St Report 06 Electricity Shares 40
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
British Gas	10,000	BT	6,000	Shell Transport	4,000
Lloyds TSB	9,000	Cable & Wireless	5,000	British Energy	4,000
BT	8,000	Older's Wile	4,000	P&O	4,000
BNP	7,000	Palmer	4,000	Older's Wile	4,000
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BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000
BT	7,000	Palmer	4,000	Older's Wile	4,000
BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000
BT	7,000	Palmer	4,000	Older's Wile	4,000
BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000

FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

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BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000
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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

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Lloyds TSB	9,000	Cable & Wireless	5,000	British Energy	4,000
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BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000
BT	7,000	Palmer	4,000	Older's Wile	4,000
BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000
BT	7,000	Palmer	4,000	Older's Wile	4,000
BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000
BT	7,000	Palmer	4,000	Older's Wile	4,000
BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000
BT	7,000	Palmer	4,000	Older's Wile	4,000
BNP	7,000	Older's Wile	4,000	British Energy	4,000

FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

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Whatever happens, Russia can do no wrong

Whatever happens to the politics, there will be strong economic growth. Russia's economy will grow faster than the rest of the world over the next 20 years than most OECD countries and probably faster than most emerging markets (see the Far East).



ECONOMIC VIEW
HAMISH McRAE

The quote comes from a book to be published next week, "The Coming Russian Boom", by Richard Layard and John Parker. It is worth drawing attention to it, now that the full gravity of President Yeltsin's health has been revealed, for two reasons. First, its judgements are already being proved right: the book was completed before the outcome of the Russian elections earlier this year and it is due to the usual publishing delays that it is only available now. It not only correctly forecast the election result, it also set out several longer-term scenarios for the Russian economy that might take place under alternative political developments. It has the right "feel" for the country's instincts, but does not force any one scenario on its readers.

Second, unlike many writers about Russia, the authors understand economics. Prof Layard is a professor at the London School of Economics and adviser to the Russian government's economic staff. John Parker is a former Moscow correspondent for *The Economist*. There is a great temptation in the West to assume that politics in Russia will determine its future economic progress. To some extent that is true - for the past 10 years it has - but the true picture is a powerful argument to be made that the Russian economy is now at a point where progress will take place irrespective of government.

The authors set out four main possibilities for the next 10 years. The first and, in their judgement, most likely is "more of the same". The present power group, led by Mr Yeltsin and Russia's prime minister, Viktor Zhirinovsky, will remain in charge. Economic progress will go two steps forward, one step back. Gradually the legal system will improve but regulation will continue and corruption will persist. Inflation will remain high - 30 to 150 per cent a year - but economic growth will be good, averaging 5 per cent a year.

'Progress will take place in the Russian economy irrespective of government'

Option two, and the next most likely, is neocommunist. The communist party regains control, though its policies would be more akin to the popular status of Peron in Argentina than old-style communism of 10 years ago. Inflation would increase as public spending ran even further ahead of tax revenues, privatisation would be halted, price controls would be applied but would fail. After a couple of years the economic policies would have to be reversed and financial orthodoxy re-established. Then, within five years, economic failure would encourage change: the young would take over from the old again.

West as well as its political ones. But such a nationalist government might be strongly pro-business and the economy might do better than it would under more muddled government.

Finally, there is reform. This is seen as the least likely outcome, but if it were to happen there would be a surge in foreign investment, which could rise to more than \$10bn a year, with economic growth at more than 6 per cent a year.

At the moment Russia seems to be hovering between number one and number four: muddling through is still the most likely outcome, although there is the tantalising possibility of a sustained period of

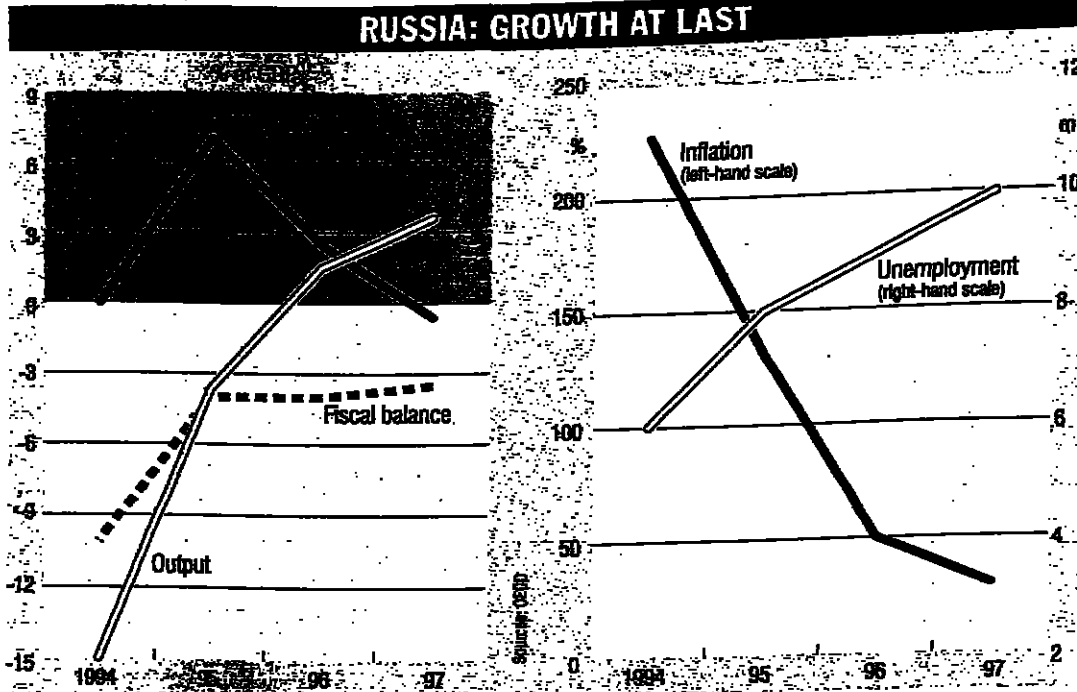
economic reform. The death of Mr Yeltsin would lead to new elections and options two and three would re-emerge.

But then there was always a possibility that that would happen anyway: the communists or the nationalists could recover power in the next scheduled elections in 2001, or even before. So in one sense Mr Yeltsin's illness does not really alter the big picture: political uncertainty is always in the background. But that does not stop economic progress.

This year looks like being the first since the collapse of communism when recorded output is going to rise. You have to say "recorded" because much of the present output is in unrecorded services or in the black economy, while much of the recorded output under the communist system was not really output at all, in the sense that the goods being produced were goods which could be sold. (A lot of Russian economic activity actually subtracted value, in that the output was worth less than the cost of the energy and raw materials that went into it.)

At any rate, recorded output is now almost certainly rising, and through actual has probably been rising for a couple of years, it is still comforting to see official figures heading in the right direction.

Some of these, taken from the summer Economic Outlook of the OECD, are shown in the graph. The OECD is forecasting 3 per cent growth next year and a further fall in inflation. Unemployment is still seen as rising next year, and the fiscal deficit, at 3.5 per cent of GDP, will be lower than that of the UK, and not that far from the Maastricht limit. Inflation, however, remains



So by the standards of Western developed economies, the hard economic numbers for next year, with the sole exception of inflation, do not look out of place at all - quite good in fact. Of course the absolute level of output per head remains lower, but if the growth prospects described by Prof Layard and Mr Parker are accurate, economic growth in Russia will run well ahead of the west for the next decade.

Stand back from the chaos of transition and ask the tough question: what are the comparative advantages of Russia in the post-communist world? There seem to me to be three.

The most obvious is the wealth of natural resources, a useful "fit" with western Europe, which is resource-poor. Equally obvious is the wealth of human capital, and not just what might be called the intellectual capital of Russia's top scientists, top mathematicians and top artists, but also the rough human capital of people who are now running its rough private sector economy.

There is a third, less obvious advantage. It is that Russia is the only country in the world which straddles two of the three global time zones, for it is both a European economy and an East Asian one. We seem to

be moving to a three time-zone world, a world where economic activity is passed from one on to the next, maybe to the next, before being handed back to zone one. One zone performs the night-shift for the other. We talk of European countries having a time-zone advantage. London can trade with East Asia and North America. In a way, Russia also has a time-zone advantage, in that it runs two time-zones; if Europe provides only slow growth, it can benefit from the Asian boom. Only politics can hold it back.

And if Prof Layard and Mr Parker are right, that will not happen.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
US	1.5529	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Canada	2.2279	2.13	2.1037	2.0988	2.0938
Germany	2.3562	2.26	2.2337	2.2288	2.2238
France	7.9797	7.81	7.7837	7.7788	7.7738
Italy	2.0659	2.01	1.9837	1.9788	1.9738
Japan	171.01	169.70	168.40	167.10	165.80
ECU	1.2375	1.21	1.1837	1.1788	1.1738
Belgium	4.0513	3.96	3.9337	3.9288	3.9238
Denmark	9.0534	8.96	8.9337	8.9288	8.9238
Netherlands	2.0473	2.01	1.9837	1.9788	1.9738
Ireland	0.7876	0.77	0.7637	0.7588	0.7538
Norway	10.006	9.91	9.8837	9.8788	9.8738
Spain	166.16	164.81	163.51	162.21	160.91
Sweden	10.275	10.18	10.1537	10.1488	10.1438
Switzerland	1.9256	1.91	1.8937	1.8888	1.8838
Australia	1.9602	1.94	1.9237	1.9188	1.9138
Hong Kong	7.7531	7.66	7.6337	7.6288	7.6238
Malaysia	3.8336	3.74	3.7137	3.7088	3.7038
New Zealand	2.2304	2.14	2.1137	2.1088	2.1038
Saudi Arabia	5.9392	5.84	5.8137	5.8088	5.8038
Singapore	2.910	2.82	2.7937	2.7888	2.7838

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Argentina	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Australia	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Brazil	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Canada	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Chile	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Colombia	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Czech	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Denmark	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Egypt	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
France	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Germany	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Greece	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Hong Kong	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
India	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Indonesia	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Israel	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Italy	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Japan	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Korea	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Malaysia	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Mexico	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Netherlands	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Norway	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Poland	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Portugal	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Romania	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Russia	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Saudi Arabia	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
South Africa	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Spain	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Sweden	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Switzerland	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Taiwan	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
Thailand	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
UK	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938
USA	1.5571	1.51	1.5037	1.4988	1.4938

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; rate quoted low to high are at a premium. *Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0800 123 3033. Cable cost 30p per minute (cheap rate) 40p other times.

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	US	6.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.00%
Canada	5.75%	Spain	4.50%	Belgium	2.50%
Denmark	5.75%	Sweden	4.50%	Netherlands	2.50%
Portugal	5.75%	Greece	4.50%	Ireland	2.50%
Poland	5.75%	Czech	4.50%	Slovakia	2.50%
Hungary	5.75%	Slovenia	4.50%	Croatia	2.50%
Serbia	5.75%	Bosnia	4.50%	Herzegovina	2.50%
Montenegro	5.75%	Albania	4.50%	Bulgaria	2.50%
Romania	5.75%	Moldova	4.50%	Ukraine	2.50%
Belarus	5.75%	Latvia	4.50%	Lithuania	2.50%
Estonia	5.75%	Letland	4.50%	Malta	2.50%
Cyprus	5.75%	Malta	4.50%	Malta	2.50%
Malta	5.75%	Malta	4.50%	Malta	2.50%

Bond Yields

Country	Yield	Country	Yield	Country	Yield
UK	7.1%	Germany	7.1%	US	7.1%
France	7.1%	Italy	7.1%	Japan	7.1%
Canada	7.1%	Spain	7.1%	Belgium	7.1%
Denmark	7.1%	Sweden	7.1%	Netherlands	7.1%
Portugal	7.1%	Greece	7.1%	Ireland	7.1%
Poland	7.1%	Czech	7.1%	Slovakia	7.1%
Hungary	7.1%	Slovenia	7.1%	Croatia	7.1%
Serbia	7.1%	Bosnia	7.1%	Herzegovina	7.1%
Montenegro	7.1%	Albania	7.1%	Bulgaria	7.1%
Romania	7.1%	Moldova	7.1%	Ukraine	7.1%
Belarus	7.1%	Latvia	7.1%	Lithuania	7.1%
Estonia	7.1%	Letland	7.1%	Malta	7.1%
Cyprus	7.1%	Malta	7.1%	Malta	7.1%
Malta	7.1%	Malta	7.1%	Malta	7.1%

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	US	6.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.00%
Canada	5.75%	Spain	4.50%	Belgium	2.50%
Denmark	5.75%	Sweden	4.50%	Netherlands	2.50%
Portugal	5.75%	Greece	4.50%	Ireland	2.50%
Poland	5.75%	Czech	4.50%	Slovakia	2.50%
Hungary	5.75%	Slovenia	4.50%	Croatia	2.50%
Serbia	5.75%	Bosnia	4.50%	Herzegovina	2.50%
Montenegro	5.75%	Albania	4.50%	Bulgaria	2.50%
Romania	5.75%	Moldova	4.50%	Ukraine	2.50%
Belarus	5.75%	Latvia	4.50%	Lithuania	2.50%
Estonia	5.75%	Letland	4.50%	Malta	2.50%
Cyprus	5.75%	Malta	4.50%	Malta	2.50%
Malta	5.75%	Malta	4.50%	Malta	2.50%

Tourist Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	US	6.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.00%
Canada	5.75%	Spain	4.50%	Belgium	2.50%
Denmark	5.75%	Sweden	4.50%	Netherlands	2.50%
Portugal	5.75%	Greece	4.50%	Ireland	2.50%
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Belarus	5.75%	Latvia	4.50%	Lithuania	2.50%
Estonia	5.75%	Letland	4.50%	Malta	2.50%
Cyprus	5.75%	Malta	4.50%	Malta	2.50%
Malta	5.75%	Malta	4.50%	Malta	2.50%

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Settlement	High/Low
Long Gilt	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Gilt	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Euro	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Euro	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Yen	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Yen	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Dollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Dollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Pound	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Pound	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Swiss	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Swiss	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Australian	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Australian	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long New Zealand	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short New Zealand	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long South African	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short South African	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Hong Kong	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Hong Kong	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Singapore	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Singapore	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Malaysia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Malaysia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Indonesia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Indonesia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Philippines	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Philippines	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Thailand	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Thailand	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Vietnam	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Vietnam	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Laos	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Laos	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Cambodia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Cambodia	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Myanmar	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Myanmar	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00</

Johnston at odds over Bijou

Racing
GREG WOOD

Much of the old Ascot snobbery has been diffused in recent years, but it persists in one respect at least: they expect, and get, a higher class of racehorse. The entries arrived yesterday for the Festival meeting at the track this weekend, and even amid a welter of Pattern events and competitive handicaps, one set of names deserved undivided attention.

"Race of the season" is a description which often has more outings each year than one of Martin Pipe's novice hurdlers, but the case of the eight-furlong Queen Elizabeth II Stakes on Saturday, it has at last found the contest it deserves. All but one of the nine runners declared for the race yesterday were won a Group One prize over a mile this season, the exception being Charnwood Forest, a relative poor in this company since he could manage only second place in the Lockinge

Stakes in May. From the Classic generation, the field should include the winners of four of Europe's six major Guineas races, and also Bijou D'Inde, who took the St James's Palace

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Rockcracker
(Nottingham 2.30)
NB: Bernardine
(Epsom 4.50)

Stakes at the Royal meeting. In addition to Charnwood Forest, their elders will send in First is-

Queen Elizabeth II Stakes (1m)					
Horse (Trainer)	Color	Weight	Form	Time	Total
Bijou d'Inde (J. Johnston)	3	11-10	1-2-3-4-5	1:28.5	5-5
Charnwood Forest (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	2-3-4-5-6	1:29.0	5-6
Mark of the Moon (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	3-4-5-6-7	1:29.5	5-7
Arcturion (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	4-5-6-7-8	1:30.0	5-8
First Island (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	5-6-7-8-9	1:30.5	5-9
Shelton (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	6-7-8-9-10	1:31.0	5-10
Bijou d'Inde (J. Johnston)	3	11-10	7-8-9-10-11	1:31.5	5-11
Charnwood Forest (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	8-9-10-11-12	1:32.0	5-12
Mark of the Moon (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	9-10-11-12-13	1:32.5	5-13
Arcturion (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	10-11-12-13-14	1:33.0	5-14
First Island (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	11-12-13-14-15	1:33.5	5-15
Shelton (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	12-13-14-15-16	1:34.0	5-16
Bijou d'Inde (J. Johnston)	3	11-10	13-14-15-16-17	1:34.5	5-17
Charnwood Forest (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	14-15-16-17-18	1:35.0	5-18
Mark of the Moon (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	15-16-17-18-19	1:35.5	5-19
Arcturion (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	16-17-18-19-20	1:36.0	5-20
First Island (J. Gosden)	3	11-10	17-18-19-20-21	1:36.5	5-21

Each year a fifth one odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Ascot, Saturday). with a run

I received a message that there was something wrong with the clutch. Alarm bells started to ring loudly in my head

It goes without saying that I had hoped to allow everyone to rest easy by bringing the championship to a climax in Portugal on Sunday. Instead, I finished second to my Rothmans Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve and, between us, we made sure that the excitement was right to the end of what has turned out to be a nail-biting 16-race season.

For the best part of the weekend, it seemed things were going my way. I beat Jacques to pole position by just nine-thousandths of a second, and a highly dramatic qualifying session and then made full use of that by making a good start at an absolutely crucial time. Once again, Jean Alesi had made a blistering getaway but I managed to hold him back on the run to use first corner. Jacques, meanwhile, had been slow off the line

and he was down in fourth place. All I had to do was drive cleanly and pull away while I had a clear track. My gap to Jacques was a healthy 13 seconds until I came across two back markers who were having their own battle, trying to overtake each other and totally oblivious to everything else. They were swerving all over the road so badly that it was impossible for me even to get close to them, never mind overtake. There was every chance that they would have knocked me off the road because they were not using their mirrors and had no idea I was there. That alone set back five seconds in one lap, a huge setback when you are working hard to gain every tenth of a second. There is little doubt that that loss would be very significant.

Meanwhile, Jacques had moved

into second place and I was left in no doubt that he was going very quickly. He was really pushing hard in the knowledge that he had nothing to lose but I knew it would be very difficult for Jacques to overtake.



DAMON HILL

corner leading on to the pit straight. You need to use all the road at that point and I found the McLaren on the edge of the track. I had to back off in order to avoid hitting him and that cost some vital time.

I made my pit stop and, just as it was about to finish, David came

trundling down the pit lane in his wounded McLaren. Carl Gaden, our chief mechanic and the man with the "lollipop", had no option but to hold me at the very moment I needed to get going. Again, another second was lost. Jacques made his pit stop on the next lap and I was very surprised indeed when he came storming out of the pits and rejoined no more than 0.025sec in front of me. I knew in that moment that he had probably clinched victory.

I tried hard to stay with him and apply pressure but I wasn't able. He was too fast. And, of course, even if I could have given chase, I doubt whether I would have been able to overtake. After my disaster at Monza two weeks before, the right thing to do was think about the championship. Second place would keep the

ball well in my court. So second would have to do.

Then even that suddenly became a luxury when I received a message that there was something wrong with the clutch.

Alarm bells started to ring loudly in my head. Under no circumstances could I afford to lose the six points for second place. Having my lead cut to nine points was one thing; seeing it dwindle to three would be quite another. I couldn't work out what the problem might be. All they told me was that I had to go to a different switch position which changes the clutch strategy in the gear change. As it transpires, I was actually quite lucky to finish the race.

I felt very disappointed, particularly for the British supporters who had travelled to Estoril in large numbers. The grandstand opposite the pits was full of fans who hoisted their flags and waved them all the time I appeared in the garage. There was a fantastic turn-out all around the circuit and, sadly for them, I wasn't able to conclude the championship there and I presume they won't be able to go to Japan. Although I only need to finish in the first six, I will tackle the race at Suzuka thinking only of what I need to do to win the championship. To do that, I will have to start with qualifying ahead of everyone else and then control everything from there. Believe me, I still think of finishing second-best. But I've got to think about the championship. I have waited a long time, so I can wait another three weeks.

Scotland set to lose Ferguson

Football

Scotland could be without Duncan Ferguson for their World Cup double-header against Latvia and Estonia next month.

The Everton striker is facing exploratory surgery today on a knee injury which would rule him out of Everton's Coca-Cola Cup return against York tomorrow night.

And, depending on the diagnosis, the Scotland manager Craig Brown could lose Ferguson for the games against Latvia on 5 October and Estonia four days later.

Ferguson has been troubled for some time with a knee problem and Everton are letting him have keyhole surgery tomorrow to assess the damage.

"It is not a serious problem but Duncan has been playing

with this for the past few weeks," the Everton manager, Joe Royle, said. "He will have to see how bad it is and we will take it from there."

Ferguson could miss Saturday's match with Sheffield Wednesday as well as the York fixture, and would then be extremely doubtful for the Scotland double-header.

The 24-year-old striker ended a 20-month exile from international football in Scotland's goalless draw with Austria in Vienna last month, when he won his sixth cap and collected a yellow card.

Ferguson is expected to land a two-match suspension for his red card against Blackburn on Saturday from 12 October, leaving him almost four weeks to recover from surgery if needs be.

He could miss games against

West Ham at Goodison and the Merseyside derby against Liverpool at Anfield on 20 October.

Brown was typically philosophical about another possible international call-off - Ferguson missed Euro 96 to have surgery on a groin injury.

"We will have to wait and see what happens and I can't say much more until we hear from Everton," Brown said. "We would love to have Duncan available for Latvia and Estonia as they are tricky away games, but we also have Sweden coming here in November and we want him fit for that one. It would appear he has a problem so obviously it is better for him to get it cleared."

Brown will name his Scotland selection on Thursday and the Rangers striker Ally McCoist, who partnered Ferguson in Austria, could be another problem, depending on the extent of his current calf injury.

Rangers could be playing to more than 15,000 empty seats in tomorrow's Champions' League match against Auxerre in Glasgow. Only 30,000 tickets have been sold for the Ibrox fixture, as Rangers look to recover from their dismal 3-0 opening game defeat at Grasshopper Zurich.

The Scottish champions expect attendances for their three home games to be similar to last season, even though the capacity at Ibrox has gone up and prices are down.



Brett Favre, the Green Bay quarterback, fumbles the ball as he is hit by Minnesota's Fernando Smith (left) and John Randle. Photograph: Jonathan Daniel/Allsport

Hot favourites all catch sudden cold

American football

MATT TENCH

While the pundits in America prophesied a variety of Super Bowl winners before the season started, there was virtual unanimity as to who would win the three divisions in the National Football Conference.

Dallas, Green Bay and San Francisco, it was felt, were all but certainties to retain their titles.

Despite Dallas' faltering start, little occurred in the early skirmishing to revise those predictions, but Sunday's remarkable set of results saw all three beaten, and provided further evidence that we may be in for a compellingly combustible campaign.

Perhaps the biggest surprise came in Minnesota, where the Vikings beat the Packers 30-21.

In storming to a 3-0 start the Pack had crushed all opponents

with sufficient élan to suggest that the Vikings could only be added to the list of hapless victims.

True, the unfancied and unfashionable Vikings were also unbeaten, but their victories were less convincing and most of the news surrounding the team had focused on the scandal involving their head coach, Dennis Green, and a woman who claimed he had paid her to have an abortion.

That may change after a thrilling encounter in which the Vikings trailed 17-14 in the fourth quarter. The game-breaking touchdown came from Robert Smith's 37-yard run, but just as important was the pressure Minnesota exerted on Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre, who was sacked seven times.

The 49ers might have been expected to take full advantage of a Pack set-back, but after two comfortable home wins the

49ers visited Carolina, only to find they had left their art in San Francisco. They succumbed 23-7 to a team that has only been in the league 13 months, but is now the clear leader of the NFC West. Carolina even managed without their starting quarterback, Steve Beuerlein replacing the injured Kerry Collins. Beuerlein produced a near-flawless first half, orchestrating scoring drives on the first three possessions, against what has been regarded as the game's best defense.

The Cowboys, too, were unable to beat a back-up player-caller when they travelled to Buffalo. The obscure Todd Collins guided the Bills into the lead in the first quarter, and then watched as his team's defense humiliated the Dallas superstars. Troy Aikman was intercepted three times, while Emmitt Smith held to 25 yards as the Super Bowl champions were beaten 10-7. Given the lynch-mob mentality of sports followers in Texas, this latest defeat - the third in four games - is bound to heighten the vilification of Barry Switzer, the Cowboys' head coach.

Switzer received the gridiron equivalent of the chairman's vote of confidence last week, with owner Jerry Jones declaring him "more vital today than he was when he got here three years ago. I think of Barry Switzer coaching the Cowboys 10 years from now". We shall see...

Cambridge for sale

Cambridge United was put up for sale by its directors yesterday. The Third Division club's chairman, Reg Smart, said a fresh injection of cash was needed to enable the club to grow.

"My colleagues and I have given everything we can to the club over recent years," he said. "We now feel that a fresh injection of funds, and individuals on the board will give the club the boost it needs to develop."

The club is struggling on

gates of just over 2,000 and is believed to be losing more than £1,000 a day. "The time has come to find out if there is anyone out there who can make the right kind of financial commitment. We are interested in hearing from anyone with the best interests of Cambridge United at heart," Smart said.

SPORTING DIGEST

American football

San Francisco 23 San Francisco 7; Kansas City 17 Denver 14; Minnesota 30 Green Bay 21; Arizona 28 New Orleans 14; New England 28 Jacksonville 20 (NY); New York Giants 23 New York Jets 6; Washington 17 St Louis 20 Buffalo 10 Dallas 7; Detroit 35 Seattle 10; San Diego 40 Oakland 34; Chicago 17 Tampa Bay 15; Philadelphia 33 Atlanta 18.

Basketball

NBA: Cleveland 6 Kansas City 5; Detroit 5 Toronto 4; Chicago White Sox 5 Minnesota 3; New York Yankees 4 Boston 3; Texas 4 California 1; Detroit 7 Milwaukee 3; Indiana 13 Seattle 11.

National League

Atlanta 2 Montreal 2; St Louis 0 (replay); Philadelphia 6 Houston 0; Philadelphia 4 New York Mets 3; Pittsburgh 11 Chicago Cubs 3; San Francisco 2 Colorado 3.

Baseball

Atlanta 2 Montreal 2; St Louis 0 (replay); Philadelphia 6 Houston 0; Philadelphia 4 New York Mets 3; Pittsburgh 11 Chicago Cubs 3; San Francisco 2 Colorado 3.

Cycling

Nicola Minoli, of Italy, won the 16th stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday while Alex Zülle of the ONCE team continued to hold the overall race. Minoli, riding for the Owens Playhaus team, won the 221km (137 miles) leg between the northern towns of Logroño and Sabariego in a time of 5 hours, 34 minutes and 38 seconds.

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Football

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Football

SPORT

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Hill accelerates search for new seat

Motor Racing
DERICK ALLSOP

Damon Hill will sift through sealed bids for his services this week and decide where to pick up his Formula One career next season. It is thought Ligier-Mugen-Honda have joined Jordan-Peugeot and Stewart-Ford in the auction.

at the hands of his Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, in the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril has forced him to revise his strategy.

Interested parties have been asked to respond to what amounts to a questionnaire compiled by Hill and his representatives. They are required not only to state the financial terms for a two-year contract but also to provide information about working budgets, facilities, technical potential and team plans.

to relegation, with Jordan and Stewart known to be keen to sign him.

since a direct route to Benetton was blocked by Jean Alesi, fear they may not be able to match the retainers offered by the other teams. A ball park figure of \$3m (£2m) a year has been suggested.

paced by Ralf, it would be too embarrassing to bear.

ty from his bosses at Williams, who must feel his lack of pace indicates their decision to unload him. By Hill's admission, he was simply not quick enough.

Hill could, of course, consider proceedings to his own advantage by driving Villeneuve off the road. It would, after all, not be the first time the championship has been decided in such a summary manner.



Final preparations at Jenner Park, the home of Barry Town, before tonight's Uefa Cup tie against Aberdeen

Photograph: David Ashdown

Barry take next step on road to Barcelona

The Barry Town fanzine, 38 Hours From Vilnius, is unusual in that its title commemorates a 6-0 thrashing, sustained in the club's first European adventure.

played and rewound the video of his long-range strike so much that the tape has "gone all wobbly", but Jones and his colleagues sat through a screening of the match on Friday and he sees "no reason" why Aberdeen should not be beaten.

Phil Shaw visits the League of Wales club hoping to shock the Dons tonight

bombard a near-pristine pitch, forcing the players to train in a nearby park before returning to shower and head out to local schools as part of the Football in the Community campaign.

League of Wales would substitute the word "Comical" for the name of its inaugural sponsors, Konica, she saw a supposedly shambolic collection of village sides as a route into Europe.

human," he reasons. "They didn't really get behind us or hurt us at their place."

Lee makes approach to Dalglish

Football
ALAN NIXON
AND NICK DUXBURY

Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman who has seen his rudderless club embarrassingly rejected by George Graham and Dave Bassett, has approached Kenny Dalglish about coming aboard as a consultant.

said. "Gary Poole has been charged with misconduct and has been placed under instant suspension. In the situation where a player is alleged to have assaulted a match official it is within our powers to order the offender not to participate in any footballing activity until a commission of inquiry is held."

Dalglish is a close friend of Hartford, whom he took to Ewood Park as reserve team coach, and he may be interested in helping out without the full responsibility of being the manager even though just such an arrangement at Blackburn proved not to be a success.

When Chelsea's Frank Sinclair, then on loan at West Bromwich Albion, was found guilty of butting referee Paul Cook in 1991, he was suspended for nine matches.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No 3106, Tuesday 24 September By Aledad Monday's Solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

ACROSS

- Much-sought drink I had is tasteless (7)
- Senior eats plenty as a taster (7)
- Qualification applied to Cyprus in FO work? (9)
- Information that is getting one a servant of one's dreams? (5)
- Heartily told to give cheer (5)
- Cut of meat, something on table having modest covering (9)
- A comfort when having trouble with drink (3-5,6)
- That could introduce such as parliamentary correspondence did? (8,6)
- Insult one's poor daughter of short facial appearance? (4-5)

DOWN

- It could provide an entry for Spanish church (5)
- Rejected revolutionary Irish cyclist? (5)
- Perhaps Neil Gwyn's no good as a relative (9)
- Change of heart in Parisian making clay (7)
- Some fear a chest pain (7)
- Certainly contained by legal document (6)
- Bribe organised by old singer (7)
- Stand-off in Cable v BT? (6,3)
- RIP? (4,7)
- Second agreement for example (3)
- Getting a lift from smoke American is wonderful (5)
- Perhaps Neil's way to restart Rugby (4-5)

Monday's Solution

1. RAINBOW 2. HAV 3. RAINBOW 4. RAINBOW 5. RAINBOW 6. RAINBOW 7. RAINBOW 8. RAINBOW 9. RAINBOW 10. RAINBOW 11. RAINBOW 12. RAINBOW 13. RAINBOW 14. RAINBOW 15. RAINBOW 16. RAINBOW 17. RAINBOW 18. RAINBOW 19. RAINBOW 20. RAINBOW 21. RAINBOW 22. RAINBOW 23. RAINBOW 24. RAINBOW 25. RAINBOW 26. RAINBOW 27. RAINBOW 28. RAINBOW 29. RAINBOW 30. RAINBOW 31. RAINBOW 32. RAINBOW

Carling welcomed back into the England fold

Rugby Union
DAVID LLEWELYN

Will Carling is back in the England squad, all is right with the rugby world - well almost. All that remains now on the troubled England front is to name his successor as captain. The favourites are the Bath centre Phil de Glanville and the Wasps flanker Lawrence Dallaglio, both of whom captain their club.

the first get-together, while the Rugby Football Union cancelled the second to avoid a confrontation and a potentially embarrassing climbdown.

have to get our arms around it. There's been enough delay. Some famous names are still out in the cold, including the talismanic figure of the Leicester captain and No 8, Dean Richards, and his club colleague Rory Underwood, together with the Bath quartet of Jon Callard, Graham Dawe, Andy Robinson and Victor Uboegbu.

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dunhill

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